

WHAT'S INSIDE

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'Inhuman treatment' of Filipinos assailed

By Cynthia Balana in Manila and Julie Alipala PDI Mindanao Bureau

"AN AFFRONT to our nation." Senate leaders yesterday blasted Malaysia's "inhuman treatment" of 122 Filipinos it forcibly returned to the country on board a small fishing ves-

INHUMAN/A16

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P15

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Joma: So it's all-out war

Red leader calls on NPA to topple Napocor towers, lines

By Gerald G. Lacuarta, Agnes E. Donato and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

THE COUNTRY may suffer power outages again not because of the breakdown of power plants but because of renewed attacks by communist guerrillas on all fronts against the government, including the toppling of electrical towers and lines.

Exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Maria Sison yesterday called on the New People's Army (NPA) to launch the attacks in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of an "all-out war" on communist guerrillas.

The President on Monday announced the deployment of troops against the NPA after joint exercises with the US military aimed at routing the Abu Sayyaf bandits ended in July.

Militant groups denounced the new military offensive, saying this will likely lead to the harassment of activists and labor organizers.

Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), urged the NPA's 128 guerrilla fronts to "go into new kinds of special operations such as destroying electrical towers and lines like during the final years of Marcos."

He said these special operations would "deliver telling blows to the regime in terms of calculated economic disruption and clear inability of the regime to provide a profitable environment to the imperialist corporate vultures."

"Current conditions are becoming similar to those in the years 1969 to 1972 when Marcos was preparing to declare martial law," Sison said in a statement from The Hague in The Netherlands.

He also encouraged "armed city partisan warfare" to make the business environment far worse than now, a directive which may lead to the reactivation of urban liquidation squads that targeted policemen and government officials in Metro Manila in the 1980s.

"The ruling clique believes it can gain politically in a big way by posing as strong and whipping up a policy of repression, but the National Democratic

JOMA/A16



SHE WANTS justice. Landbank cashier Acsa Ramirez is comforted by husband Feliciano during a press conference Tuesday. "I haven't slept for the past few nights... My older sister nearly had a heart attack."

ERIK ARAZAS

'I thought I was to be congratulated'



PHOTO OOPS! (Aug. 2, Friday) President Macapagal listens as NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco points to Acsa Ramirez, the whistle-blower who was mistaken for a suspect in the P203-million tax scam.

By Philip Tubeza and Carlito Pablo

"I THOUGHT I was going to be congratulated but I ended up getting accused."

Landbank cashier Acsa Ramirez tearfully recounted her ordeal on Friday when the President unexpectedly presented her as a suspect in the P203-million tax diversion scam she had herself exposed.

Ramirez demanded a public apology from the National Bureau of Investigation for presenting her in false light. Her lawyer, Virginia Suarez-Pinlac, said her client was thinking of filing charges against the bureau. Asked if she wanted a presidential apology, Ramirez said: "That is up to President (Macapagal)-Arroyo."

Ma. Lourdes Pineda, a board member of the Land Bank of the Philippines Employees' Association, said

ITHOUGHT/A15

'Look for a person with heart of gold'

By Blanche Rivera and Christine Herrera

WHEN the doctors at Israel's Abu Kabir morgue asked Mottie Elkavetz for a description of Adelina Cunanan, one of two Filipinos killed in the suicide bombing of a crowded bus on Sunday, he replied: "Look for a person with a heart of gold."

Cunanan, a mother of two, had been the caregiver of Elkavetz's 80-year-old mother Miriam. "She came to a distant place to send her children to university" and fast became a member of the family," said Elkavetz. "I feel as if I have lost a sister," he said.

The outpouring of grief over the fate of Cunanan, 44, and her friend and fellow caregiver Rebecca Ruga, 37—two of the nine persons killed in the attack—united two countries yesterday.

Ruga's 72-year-old ward, Sima Kakun, said Ruga had always been there to take care of her.

"She was never late... when she was late that morning, I knew something bad had happened to her... and that the

LOOK/A15

Filipina hurt in Pakistan school attack

A FILIPINO mother, who was wounded on Monday when four gunmen stormed a Christian school in Pakistan and killed six people, has been discharged from the hospital.

In a report to Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople, Philippine Ambassador to Pakistan Jorge Arizabal said Juliet Visitacion was wounded in the hand and was treated at the Ali Medical Center in Islamabad.

Visitacion, the latest Filipino victim of terrorist attacks carried out by Muslim extremists abroad, was visiting her two children—Jenny Grace, 14, and Doane Jay, 18—at the Muree Christian School when the gunmen struck about 11:15 a.m.

The Visitacion children are the only Filipinos among the school's 150 foreign students, 30 of whom are Americans. None was hurt in the attack.

Arizabal said Juliet Visitacion and her Filipino hus-

FILIPINA/A5

US financing war on communist guerrillas

By Carlito Pablo and Martin P. Marfil

UNCLE SAM is financing President Macapagal-Arroyo's war on communist guerrillas.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday said the government would spend half of the \$55 million in anti-terrorism package from Washington in the fight against communist

insurgency.

Filipino commandos trained by American forces during the recently concluded Balikatan 02-1 exercise will be unleashed against the 11,500-member communist New People's Army. But the commandos are not enough.

The Department of National Defense is asking Congress to approve the recruitment of

7,000 new soldiers and 15,000 government-armed militiamen to help the regular forces deny the NPA sanctuaries and prevent them from extorting money from businesses, according to Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces chief of staff.

Officials consider the NPA an even more serious threat to national security than the Abu Sayyaf, which for the past two

years had kidnapped foreign tourists and Christian missionaries for ransom.

Reyes said \$25 million would be used to put up, train and equip elite Light Reaction Companies to fight the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines that is on the US list of terrorist organizations.

"In the program will be the

training of two more LRCs," Reyes said in an interview in Malacañang.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell discussed the \$55-million anti-terrorism package earlier approved by the US Congress when he visited Manila on Aug. 3.

Reyes said he was due to leave for Washington in the

US/A16

'We talk, we fight. We fight, we talk'

By Carlito Pablo and Juliet L. Javellana

"WE TALK, we fight. We fight, we talk."

Chief peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III thus described the government's relationship with the communist-led National Demo-

cratic Front (NDF) after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared an all-out war against communist guerrillas.

"That has been the situation ever since," Bello said in a phone interview.

But Jose Ma. Sison, an NDF political consultant, said the

President's declaration was leading to the termination of peace negotiations between the government and the NDF, an underground political umbrella that includes the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The talks were suspended in June last year after the communist-led

WETALK/A16

Pop songs top UK funeral music chart

LONDON—It's never easy to say goodbye. But when the time comes, more Britons are choosing a pop ditty over a mournful dirge.

Contemporary pop songs rather than traditional hymns provide the music for

POP/A16



Second FRONT PAGE



US troops back in October

'War games' geared toward 'new breed' of Abu terrorists

UNITED States forces will resume training Filipino troops in October to help defeat the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group which is reported to be already grooming boys as young as 10 years old for a campaign of terror, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Roy Cimatu said yesterday.

About 400 US soldiers would take part in the exercises in Mindanao in the second phase of a joint Philippine-

US effort to eliminate the Abu Sayyaf bandits, Cimatu told reporters.

More than 1,000 US troops, including special forces, took part in counter-terrorism exercises on Basilan island in the first phase, which lasted six months and

ended last week.

"The dangerous part... is that the next generation of Abu Sayyaf would be harder and more difficult (to deal with)," Cimatu said.

"There are already children undertaking some indoctrination in Basilan and these are more radical, hard-hitting and more modern fighters," he said.

"Twelve, 11 and 10-year-olds were joining them already." The training of the young Abu Sayyaf recruits included indoctrination in *madrasahs*, or Islamic schools, Cimatu said.

The US has linked the Abu Sayyaf to

Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda international terrorist network, prime suspects in the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

About eight Philippine battalions—estimated to number about 4,000 troops—would be trained by US special forces in the exercises from Oct. 1, possibly lasting till next June, Cimatu said.

He said skills learned by Filipinos in the training should also help them fight the communist New People's Army, which has been waging a war for a Marxist state for more than three decades elsewhere in the country.

Funding for the new training will

come from the \$55 million military assistance pledged by US Secretary of State Colin Powell during a visit to Manila last week.

Cimatu said that since US forces began training Filipino soldiers in February, the Philippine military had largely neutralized the

Abu Sayyaf group, which operates mainly on the mountainous islands of Basilan and Jolo.

"We are now on the way to ensuring that its capability to sow terror is erased considerably," he added.

As a result, the Philippine military has pulled out some of its forces in the south and redeployed them to other areas where communist rebels are operating, Cimatu said.

But he said the military was leaving enough forces on Basilan "to sustain the eradication of the movement."

Even though the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf was drawing to a close, "Islamic fundamentalism remains a threat," Cimatu said during a talk before foreign correspondents in a Makati hotel.

Cimatu said the military had had encounters with the new generation of young Abu Sayyaf fighters.

"They are more radical, hard-hitting, more modern fighters. We need to uproot them, that's why we have to maintain the operations," Cimatu said.

The military chief said there was a need to "register" the *madrasahs* and

talk with the *ulamas*.

A second quarter survey of the Social Weather Stations, meanwhile, has found that most Filipinos are satisfied with the US help in fighting the Abu Sayyaf but opinion was divided on how big the benefit was from the joint military exercises.

About half would like US soldiers to go to other combat zones aside from the existing ones, the SWS said in a press statement.

The survey found 63 percent satisfied and 17 percent dissatisfied with US help to the Armed Forces. Half of the responses implied that the benefit from the exercises were adequate while the other half implied otherwise. Thirty-five percent said the US soldiers should enter combat zones of both the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the communist New People's Army while 17 percent specified either the MILF or the NPA. Only 18 percent would like to limit the US soldiers to the Abu Sayyaf combat zones while 30 percent are opposed to US presence in any combat zone.

Reuters and Martin P. Marfil

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Senators not satisfied with MLSA draft

By Dona Pazzibugan

SENATORS appeared dissatisfied with the briefing on the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement with the United States that Malacañang gave them yesterday.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the senators were seeking a copy of the draft that had been transmitted by the Philippine panel to the US last week.

"So I would withhold any conclusion until we can study the draft," Drilon told reporters.

He said he wanted to verify if it was true that the agreement did not provide for the establishment of US bases or facilities.

"The problem is we don't have the final draft yet so we can't come up with a position yet, whether to support it or to require it to pass ratification," said opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

He said the senators have seen only the US Pacific Command's latest draft which had "a number of objectionable provisions."

The provision regarding the construction of facilities in relation to base operations was not clear, Biazon said.

"What I want to know is: who will construct? Who will own, control and maintain (these facilities)? These were not answered in the US draft," he said.

He said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who conducted yesterday's briefing, had assured the senators that the military would ask that the provision be deleted.

Reyes, however, claimed that the legislators were satisfied "that there is nothing mysterious nor sinister" about the MLSA, confidently proclaiming that in no time everyone would be saying that all the "brouhaha over the MLSA was much ado over nothing."

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SC junks 24 cases vs Kokoy

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME court has dismissed the 24 graft cases lodged against the brother of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, saying the information filed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government during the Aquino administration were "defective."

In a 13-page unanimous decision, the Supreme Court First Division ruled for Romualdez because of "procedural irregularities" in the information that violated the latter's right to due process.

The SC said that it should have been the Ombudsman, not the PCGG, which filed the cases involving the failure of Romualdez to file his statements of assets and liabilities (SAL) from 1962 to 1985 when he was in the government service.

At the time, Romualdez was governor of Leyte and also ambassador to Saudi Arabia, the United States and China.

Failure to file the statement was a violation of the Section 7 of Republic Act No. 3019, the Anti-Graft Law.

The SC decision also annulled and set aside the Sandiganbayan June 8, 2000 order denying Romualdez' motion to quash the information.

However, the SC said the dismissal of the information was without prejudice to the conduct of another preliminary investigation by the Ombudsman's Office. "A new information must be filed by the proper officer," it said.

The decision was written by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynarez-Santiago, and concurred in by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justices Jose Vitug, Santiago Kapunan and Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez.

In dismissing the cases, the SC said that the validity and sufficiency of the information were important in criminal proceedings.

"An information is defined as an accusation in writing, charging a person with an offense, subscribed by the prosecutor and filed with the court," the SC said.

"As can be clearly gleaned, it is the prosecutor, not the PCGG, who subscribes and files the information. In cases before the Sandiganbayan, the prosecutor is the Ombudsman. As we have held, the crimes charged against petitioner do not relate to alleged ill-gotten wealth, over which the PCGG had no jurisdiction," the SC said.

The SC said that the PCGG should have allowed the Ombudsman's Office to investigate and subsequently file the cases because it had jurisdiction over the offense.

"In the case at bar, the flaw in information is not a mere remediable defect of form. Here, the information were filed by an unauthorized party. The defect cannot be cured by conducting another preliminary investigation. An invalid information is no information at all and cannot be the basis for criminal proceedings."

The SC said that when an information "does not conform substantially to the prescribed form, it is subject to quashal. More particularly, the information may be quashed where the officer who filed it had no authority to do so."

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IATA **PTAA**

Jalosjos loses seat, finally

By Juliet Javellana

THE HOUSE has asked for a special election for the first district of Zamboanga del Norte after convicted rapist Romeo Jalosjos was formally dropped from the House roster.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the May 29 resolution declaring a vacancy and calling for a special election in Jalosjos' district was already transmitted to the Commission on Elections.

"It is now up to those who filed the resolution to seek budgetary support from the Office of the President for this election," Gonzales said.

The resolution was filed by Rep. Roseller Barinaga of the second district of Zamboanga del Norte and Rep. Belma Cabigao of Zamboanga Sibugay.

Jalosjos' name was no longer called during the opening of the second regular session of Congress on July 22.

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HANDLE TYPE	HANDLE TYPE	Chainsaw blade
TYPE	TYPE	"V" handle
DISPLACEMENT	DISPLACEMENT	Air cooled
MAXIMUM OUTPUT	MAXIMUM OUTPUT	40.0
TYPE	TYPE	2.0
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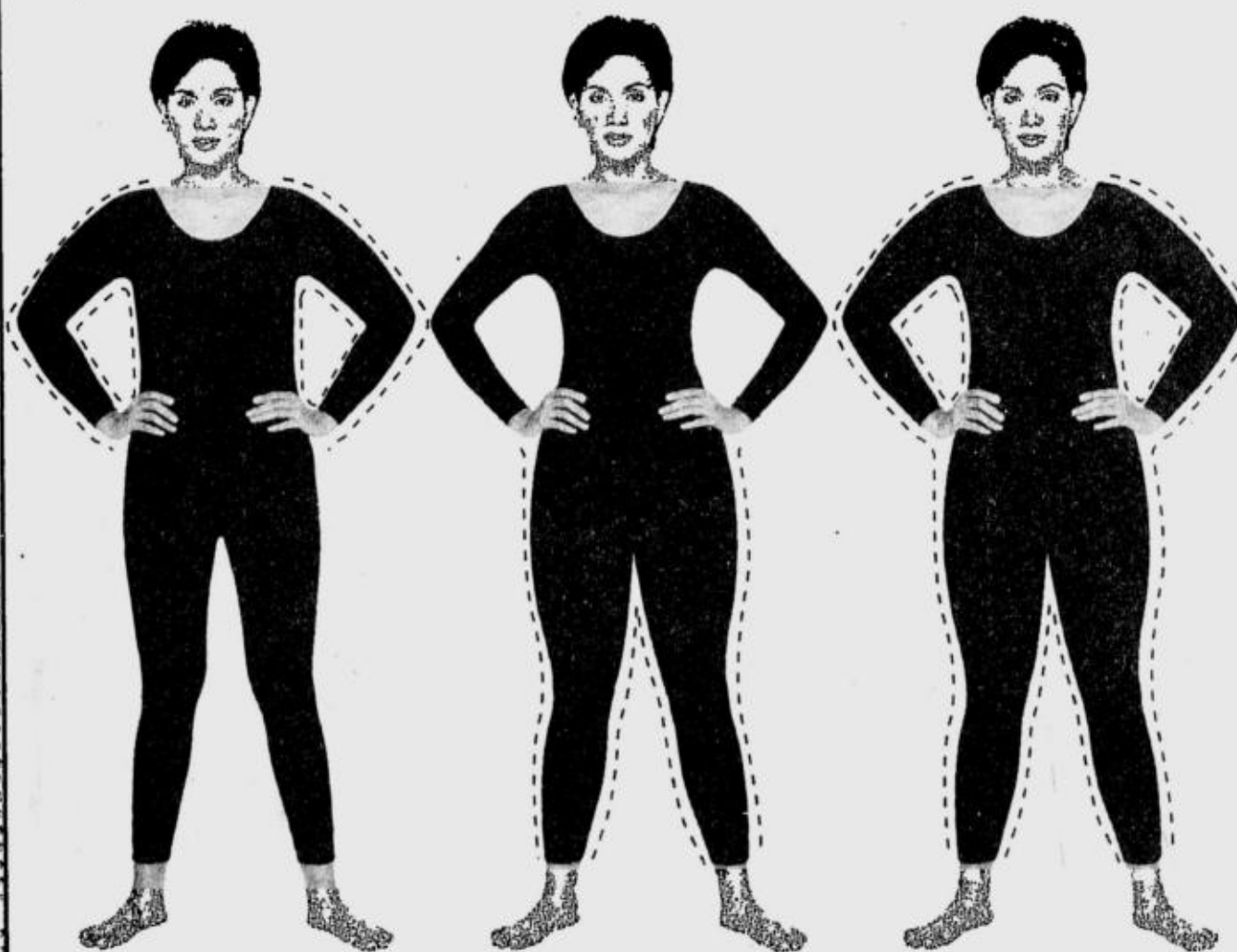
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Ombudsman race heats up

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE BATTLE for endorsements is heating up at the newly vacated Ombudsman's Office, with politicians, prosecutors, law school alumni and even sugar planters jostling to get the attention of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Less than a month before the President makes her choice, the leading contenders for the post are being enthusiastically promoted and lavishly praised by their backers. Even before Ombudsman Aniano Desierto retired on Aug. 4, reporters covering the justice beat were inundated by copies of endorsement letters sent to Ms Macapagal.

Speaker Jose De Venecia sent a letter on July 24 to the President, through the Judicial and Bar Council, endorsing the appointment of Justice Undersecretary Jose C. Calida.

Calida, who is from Davao, is also being endorsed by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Davao City Chapter, the Ateneo Law Class '73, and even the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters, Inc.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, on the other hand, is being backed by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and has also

obtained the endorsement of prosecutors at the Valenzuela City Prosecution Office.

Powerful friends

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, who is said to have the inside track in the race for the post, is being backed by powerful friends.

Marcelo's top backers include his former law firm, the Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz law office. Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz are former partners of Marcelo.

Civil society groups are supporting the chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, Haydee Yorac.

Not much is heard about the cause of Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio who took over as Ombudsman in an acting capacity on Monday and will be performing the functions of the office "until a permanent appointee is chosen" by the President, possibly in early September.

Being the no. 2 man, Gervacio should be the logical successor to Desierto. But the selection of the Ombudsman has been largely determined by political considerations, not rank in the career hierarchy.

Desierto earlier declined to comment on whether he would push for the appointment

of Gervacio, saying he did not want to unduly influence the JBC, which is to submit a shortlist of candidates to the President.

Ms Macapagal has a period of 90 days within which to fill up the post.

Dark horse

Gervacio could prove to be a dark horse in the race, said an Ombudsman official who asked not be named.

Gervacio, who rose from the ranks, started out as a graft investigator before becoming deputy Ombudsman for Mindanao in 1995 and Overall Ombudsman in 1999.

Commenting on his being touted as one of the leading contenders for the post, he said: "It has a very humbling effect. It makes me feel that my humble performance in office is being recognized, and I'm encouraged to improve the services of this office."

He said, however, he would never apply for the post because he is too preoccupied with his duties as acting Ombudsman. "But I will apply later if I can prove to myself that I could perform better than any aspirant for the position. However, if others are worthy of the job, I'll gladly step aside and help them because it is my duty to my office and my country."

Desierto has clarified that despite the political influence attending the appointment

of his successor, the JBC has a system for picking the top three nominees to be endorsed to the President.

Crusader

"In the end, track record, proven competence, integrity and independence are the most essential factors that will decide the selection," he said.

De Venecia described Calida as a "reformer and crusader at heart," and a "consistent honor student" who obtained the highest grade of 100 percent in criminal law in the 1973 bar examinations.

Calida was the founding president of the Citizens Battle Against Corruption, former secretary-general of the Volunteer Against Crime and Corruption and a convener of God's Peoples Coalition for Righteousness.

In a resolution, the IBP-Davao said choosing Calida would give "due recognition to the ability and trustworthiness of the people of Mindanao to participate in the major affairs of our nation."

The Ateneo Law Class '73, headed by batch president Victoria Pinera, attested to Calida's "vast experience and proven competence in the field of law and justice, his known integrity, recognized probity and independence, and unblemished reputation."

Majority senators covering up for Ramos—John O

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. John Osmeña said yesterday he expects the cover-up of former President Fidel Ramos' alleged involvement in the forging of purportedly anomalous contracts between the government and independent power producers (IPPs) to become more extensive.

Osmeña said some majority senators had moved to cover up Ramos' alleged involvement, but he refused to name the senators.

He said this was the reason he left the majority coalition in the Senate last June 3—his disappointment over the attempt by some administration senators to clear Ramos of liability for the onerous IPP contracts.

Osmeña said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had also issued a statement saying the executive branch was not going to hold Ramos answerable for the contracts.

Osmeña said even Energy Secretary Vincent Perez has been saying the government would honor its IPP contracts despite questions of irregularities. "So, very imminently, the executive branch is intent on covering up the involvement of Ramos and to allow the IPP contracts to remain untouched—to push the government deeper into debt and the public deeper into distress with higher electric bills," he said.

Osmeña said he would not give up now the chairmanship of the committee on government corporations and public enterprises, so he could continue to oversee the Senate inquiry into the IPP contracts.

He had announced he was relinquishing the leadership of the committee after his defection to the opposition sparked the crisis in the Senate.

Yesterday, Osmeña said his committee is scheduled to investigate the contract between the National Power Corp. and the Binga hydroelectric project, which was awarded to a friend of the former President's named Catalino Tan.

"We will proceed and we will go over the gamut of IPP contracts on the basis of records that we have. We have complete records already," he said.

Laya on BSP art

DR. JAIME C. Laya, former central bank governor and current chair of the KPMF/Laya, Mananghaya & Co. auditing firm, will give a talk on the "Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Painting Collection" on Aug. 10, Saturday, at 10 a.m. at the ground floor of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Central Bank Complex, Roxas Blvd.

The Laya presentation is to be conducted hand in hand with the temporary exhibit of highlights from the BSP collection now being held at the museum.

Laya will deliver his lecture surrounded by many of the very works he discusses and that he himself acquired for the BSP.

The talk is jointly sponsored by the National Museum, National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines. Admission fees include a free tour of the exhibits. Call 813-0771 or 842-0329 or text 0917-9652357 for further information.

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE IMPEACHMENT complaint against Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco has finally been filed in the House of Representatives.

Nineteen members of the People vs Tancangco Movement led by businessman Jose Ma. Concepcion Jr., chair of the National Movement for Free Elections, filed the impeachment complaint with the office of House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno.

Accompanying the 80-page complaint was a House resolution endorsed by 65 congressmen led by Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella.

The 65 signatures, however, were not enough to automatically send the impeachment complaint to the Senate.

Under impeachment rules, 77 congressmen, or one-third of the House membership, must sign the complaint in order to send it directly to the Senate, which would then convene as an impeachment court.

"This is a historic event in that we have filed

an impeachment complaint against a Constitutional officer," Concepcion told reporters.

The complaint charged Tancangco with inefficiency and gross inexcusable negligence, betrayal of the public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution.

Among the nine issues raised against her were her failure as chair of the Comelec modernization committee to automate vote-counting in the May 2001 elections; her alleged bias for the Voters Registration and Information System that saw the P6.5-billion

project awarded to Photokina even when the Comelec only had a budget of P1.2 billion for it; and her carrying out the precinct-mapping project when expenses for it were not authorized by law.

Lawyer Jose Bernas told reporters that any of the charges against Tancangco would be sufficient to impeach her.

Tancangco, however, was unfazed yesterday by the impeachment complaint, saying she "welcomed" the chance to defend herself. **With Blanche S. Rivera**

SSS collection up but future is still iffy

By Agnes E. Donato

SOCIAL Security System chief Corazon de la Paz yesterday reported that contribution collections went up by six percent in the first six months of the year.

But she was quick to add that the pension fund was still far from being financially viable.

De la Paz explained that while the collections rose from P15.7 billion to P16.6 billion, benefits paid to members climbed by 8.5 percent, from the P17.7 billion released in the same period last year.

Benefit disbursements for the first semester of 2002 totaled P19.2 billion, surpassing by P2.6 billion the actual amount collected. De la Paz announced in a press briefing yesterday. "We have a long way to go," she said.

In 1990, the fund's life was estimated to last to "perpetuity," but in 1995, valuation date was revised to 2050. A 1999 study cut this even shorter to 2015.

This was unless the pension fund was allowed to increase contribution rates, which had remained static for the past 23 years, De la Paz stressed.

She said the SSS was set to ask Malacañang for an Executive Order that would gradually increase

the rates—from the current 8.4 percent to about 15 percent—over the next five years.

De la Paz explained that members earning only P7,000 monthly or less would be allowed a lower, and slower, increase. The proposed increase would add some 18 years to the fund's life, she guaranteed.

In any case, she said the SSS also disbursed almost P7 billion in housing and salary loans to members from January to June 2002, or 58 percent higher than the P4.4 billion released during the same period last year.

The bulk of these releases were salary loans, which De la Paz attributed to company closures and labor retrenchments.

Meanwhile, she reported that the SSS had cut down operating expenses from P2.219 billion to P2.201 billion for the first half of 2002.

"We are doing all we can to protect the fund," de la Paz assured the 23 million SSS members, including 800,000 pensioners.

The SSS monthly contribution rates is one of the lowest among pension funds in Asia, and much lower than its public sector counterpart, the Government Service Insurance System, which collects 21 percent from its 1.5 million members. **With Clarissa S. Batino**

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Filipina hurt in Pakistan gun attack now OK

From page A1

band, Daniel, were working with the Afghanistan Office of the International Assistance Mission, a Canadian nongovernment organization operating outside of Kabul and Peshawar.

Officials of a Christian school founded to educate the children of missionaries are pondering the institution's future after masked gunmen burst onto the campus in the latest attack against Western interests since Pakistan joined the US-led war on terrorism.

The school is situated in Muree, a popular colonial-era resort town nestled in the pine-clad foothills of the lower Himalayas. Its steep slopes look over valleys that lead to Kashmir where Pakistan-based Muslim militants have been waging a 13-year insurgency against Indian rule.

The six people killed were all Pakistanis, including two security guards, a receptionist, a cook, a carpenter and a bystander. Three others, including Visitation, were wounded.

The attack—the sixth against Westerners in Pakistan this year—stunned the community and raised questions about the future of the school, founded in 1956 to educate children of missionaries in South Asia.

"I think it will take a lot of this kind of thing to dislodge" the students and staff, said Russell Morton, the school's Australian director.

"I think there is a determination to stick it out and continue to work within Pakistan. But the board will have to consider very carefully the implications for the children within this particular environment."

Before it reopened in February, the school was closed for four months due to security concerns amid the US bombing in Afghanistan.

Regional police commander Moravet Shah said he warned the school three months ago that it could be tar-

geted because of its religious affiliation and identification as a foreign institution.

"There certainly seems to be an indication that there is a certain element in our society who feel aggrieved by the foreigners gener-

ally," Interior Secretary Tasneem Noorani said on state television.

In Monday's attack, as many as four clean-shaven men believed to be in their mid-20s approached a guard post, pulled weapons from duf-

fel bags and opened fire, killing a security guard and a Pakistani who happened to be nearby.

The gunmen then stormed through the gates, shooting and killing a second guard and a school receptionist. They also blasted the win-

dows of a dormitory. Another security guard returned fire, forcing the attackers to race across the school grounds, hop over a back fence and disappear into the woods.

On their way out, the gunmen shot dead the cook and the carpenter, who was hiding near the opposite end of the grounds from where the attack began.

"We heard the shots so we all hid under tables and in cupboards and things until we got the all-clear," said an En-

glishman who would not give his name. "All of the parents then came and got their kids."

After the shooting, shaken parents and students emerged from behind the school's

green metal gates. Their eyes were wide with fear as they wandered past the front guard shack, its floor splattered with blood.

Investigators recovered three duffel bags,

spent Kalashnikov cartridges, and a note at the scene expressing "re-

sentment against world powers," Shah said. He refused to elaborate.

With report by AP, AFP and Reuters



AFP



AP

TEACHERS and students are in shock following a deadly attack on a Christian missionary school in Muree Hills, Pakistan, on Monday. At left, relatives carry the body of one of the victims in the attack.

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Anti-crime show

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo seems to be here, there and everywhere these days, meeting people who shouldn't merit a moment of her time: kidnapers, swindlers, holdup men, car thieves and even cell phone snatchers. And she isn't just looking at them like any ordinary *usisera*, she is presenting them to the whole nation like trophies in her war against crime.

The President made the declaration **EDITORIAL** of war during her State of the Nation Address two weeks ago when she vowed to "break the back of criminality and terrorism." Since then no crime seems to be so petty and no suspect so unimportant as to escape her attention. One day she is inspecting a shabu laboratory in Quezon City, and the next day she is looking at the bodies of suspected kidnapers killed by the police in Marilao, Bulacan. One day she is in General Santos City helping burn P60 million worth of confiscated marijuana, and the next days she is in Malacañang showing off four suspects in the kidnapping of a teenage girl.

Monday was another busy day for the country's top crime-buster. At the Department of Justice, Ms. Macapagal presented to the media two suspected car thieves who were on the "10 Most Wanted" list, five alleged members of a gang that reportedly robbed diners at various restaurants in Metro Manila, and three cell-phone robbers. She announced the filing of criminal charges against the owner and captain of a ship and the two consignees of 35,000 bags of rice that were smuggled into the country last year. Then she ordered Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to file charges against the judge in Albay who stopped the Bureau of Customs from seizing the rice shipment, a judge in Olongapo City who had intervened in another smuggling case and the judge in Pasig who allowed six Chinese nationals accused of operating a shabu factory to post bail. A very pleased Ms. Macapagal described the weekend arrests as "a bountiful harvest."

It should be said with little reservation that the administration's new war on crime is off to a good start. The flurry of arrests tends to show that when our law-enforcement agencies put their minds to it, they can solve cases and make swift arrests. But why must the President take a direct hand in the anti-crime campaign to get them working at their best?

For instance, the gang which used to rob restaurants in some of the busiest streets of the metropolis must have been around for some time. The police say they have pulled off a total of about 45 robberies. When they struck again late last week in San Juan, it was when Ms. Macapagal apparently first heard about them. And that seemed to be the signal for the police to act. In a matter of days, the police were able to round up the gang members. Why do our law enforcement agencies seem to develop suddenly the capability to produce results when the President cracks the whip?

This is the problem with conducting a high-profile anti-crime campaign like the one the administration is now waging. While the President's attention and, of course, the television cameras are focused on the campaign against crime, there seems to be nothing our law-enforcement agencies cannot do. But how long really can the President keep micro-managing this campaign and how long can the administration sustain public interest in it?

This early, the President and top law-enforcement officials are starting to look like they are scraping the bottom of the barrel. Why, for instance, should the President bother with petty criminals like cell-phone robbers? And why does she have to resort to such dramatics as announcing that she would personally file the case against the rice smugglers in Bicol—something which even a president has no personality or authority to do?

The administration may crow about the series of arrests the police have effected so far. But that isn't the end of the cases, much less of the crime wave sweeping all over the country. Government prosecutors still have to secure convictions for the suspects, which are not always a sure thing.

Showing suspects on TV might help improve the image of the administration. But it is not the best way to crush rampant criminality. Except in TV shows, solving crime is done away from the glare of cameras. And it will take many more arrests and convictions of big-time criminals before people will begin to feel safe in their homes and in the streets.



Ms. President, how about squatting syndicates?

WARNING to private subdivisions and homeowners associations in Quezon City: there are organized squatting syndicates that are forcibly invading and taking over open spaces and vacant lots in villages. Once they have erected their shanties on the private lots, it is very hard to eject them because they use that stupid Lina Law to protect them and because policemen, City Hall officials and barangay officials are afraid of the squatting syndicates. Several subdivisions in Quezon City have already been taken over. The latest is the Doña Nicasia Puyat Subdivision in Barangay Commonwealth, just beside Sen. Manuel Villar's La Brea Homes.

Last June, a group of squatters led by a notorious landgrabber, entered the subdivision and forcibly took over two vacant lots totaling 893 sq.m. owned by Jerry and Marie Grace Ibay of Quezon City. They destroyed the fence and the guardhouse, subdivided the lots, put up fake concrete monuments, constructed several shanties, put up signs, and are actually selling the subdivided lots to gullible buyers at P11,000 to P40,000 per 40 sq.m.

But the unkindest cut is that when the owners asked the help of the police, QC Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, the City Engineer's Office, and barangay officials, they were given the runaround. The matter was passed from one office to another, and from one person to another.

They wrote a letter to Mayor Belmonte who merely passed on the letter to Marlowe Jacuntin of Task Force COPRISS who, in turn, passed the buck to Ramon Asprer of the Urban Poor Affairs Office. The mayor's secretary, lawyer Victoria V. Lozon, told the Ibay couple to take the matter to engineer Joselito Cabungcal, officer in charge of the City Engineering Department. But the engineers washed their hands by saying that privately-owned lots are "outside their jurisdiction."

The Engineering Department is either ignorant of the laws or is deliberately ducking its responsibilities. The shanties have no

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



building permits and therefore can be demolished summarily. The squatters cannot have building permits because they have no torrens titles to present as they don't own the lots. The owners, the Ibay couple, have the titles. Besides, ownership doesn't matter. Even legitimate lot owners are immediately accosted by city engineers if they have no building permits to their constructions. Just putting up a fence to protect your property requires a permit. So it is hard to understand why the engineering department put up the excuse that it has no jurisdiction over privately-owned lots.

The owners went to the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday where PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane and all his top generals, the newly appointed regional directors, were panelists at the forum, to ask for help. But some of them acted more like lawyers for the squatting syndicate than as protectors of the lives and property of citizens. All the couple wanted was to get back their property, but for every suggestion the police put up an excuse not to do it. These were legitimate and genuine lot owners faithfully paying their taxes to the government but that government can't—and even seems unwilling—to protect their rights in exchange for the taxes they're paying which fund their salaries. It seemed that the lawbreakers have more rights than the law-abiding taxpayers.

Urban poor groups (professional squatters, by the way, are not really poor; they take in more money than the owners whose lots they have stolen) and even the Commission on Human Rights harp on the "human rights" of

the squatters. But what about the rights of the property owners? The taxes they paid are being squandered to coddle the non-paying opportunistic squatters who take advantage of the government's leniency and indifference to pull their scams. President Macapagal-Arroyo has embarked on a much-publicized anti-crime campaign. Hail to the Chief for that! She has ordered a crackdown on smugglers, drug traffickers, crooked judges, car thieves, robbers, even cell phone thieves and pickpockets—all "the criminals who comprise the bulk of termites in our society." But what about squatting syndicates? They are the bigger menace to our society, spreading anarchy. They are the biggest termites that will crumble the foundations of Ate Glo's "strong republic", the same way that the tiny insect termites crumble—quietly, slowly, hardly seen, but very deadly—the foundations of wooden houses. Worse, they encourage disobedience to our laws and disrupt an ordered society. The cancer of squatting is spreading rapidly; doesn't the President and her leaders see that?

When I saw Interior Secretary Joey Lina at the Kapihan sa Sulo sometime ago, I told him that his Lina Law has provisions against professional squatting syndicates. Behind every squatting colony is a syndicate whose leaders are known. They not only collect the "tong" from the genuine squatters, they also provide the lawyers, enforcers and fixers for the syndicates. So why hasn't a single member of a squatting syndicate been prosecuted? I asked. Lina replied: "All right, from now on we'll go after the professional squatters." That was weeks ago. Until now, not a single syndicate member has been arrested or charged.

Mr. Secretary, here is your chance. The names and identities of the leader and the chief lieutenants of the squatting syndicate in Doña Nicasia Puyat Subdivision have been furnished to the police, City Hall and barangay officials. Let's see you do your thing against squatting syndicates.

Dancing in the dark

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



changed all that. Tepid as the results of his talks with the Palestinians and Israelis, indeed as his diplomatic offensive in the Arab world, have been, he remains the perfect emissary to a world riven by war, where the US does not exactly loom large as hapless victim, 9/11 notwithstanding. Powell's being African-American has much to do with it.

Yes, I myself would have stood up and applauded Powell had I been at the Pen. But that is the same reason I will not stand up and applaud Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo or any official of her government when she enters the Pen, or any other hotel. I will applaud Powell because he represents a fierce sense of independence and pride. I will not applaud GMA and her officials because they do not. Powell in fact is the best argument for not our accepting the things he wants us to, chiefly to hook up like Tonto (never has that name been more apt) to the US's Lone Ranger. He is the best argument for our rejecting them. If he himself had shown such slavishness in life, he would not be where he is now.

That is the reason too GMA will not be applauded when she enters any hotel in any Southeast Asian country, a couple of them being resolutely Muslim. She may imagine her doctrine about the war on terrorism being a war against poverty has been embraced by nations, great and small, and she may imagine that her all-out adoption of the American "war on terror" has made the Philippines a global player, but she is alone to imagine so.

As far as the other Asian countries are concerned, the Philippines will loom large only as the ridiculous mosquito which, having perched on the carabao's back, now thinks it is as tall and big, if not more so, than the

carabao. That was how they saw us during the Seato days, when the diminutive Carlos P. Romulo was strutting about, groaning like Atlas from the weight of the world. That is the way they see us now, during these Asean days, with the diminutive GMA strutting about, groaning from the weight of her own self-importance. The diminutive is completely a figure of speech, though feel free to think otherwise.

The spectacle at Malacañang last weekend merely showed the worst of the Filipino character, which is our tendency to try to get ahead in the world not by our own steam, or initiative, or merit, but by making *palakas*, or scoring points, with a *padrino*. We derided Erap for pushing that culture to the extreme, for institutionalizing an order where pull and influence and connection are everything and talent and enterprise and industry nothing, yet we do exactly the same thing in foreign relations. We try to impress our neighbors not with our own abilities but with how "strong" we are with America. We are the grand sidekick, the right arm, the Tonto of Uncle Sam, G.I. Joe, and Tito George.

When all we need to do to be friends with America is just to say, "Sorry, but no can do." At the very least because we have a sizable community in the Arab countries whose welfare we put at risk by taking the lead in an initiative that can be interpreted as anti-Arab, and because we've kept the tourists and foreign investors away long enough by projecting ourselves as an al-Qaida laboratory and R and R for American troops. At the very most because like the rest of the world, we have problems believing the correctness of American policy in Palestine, in the wisdom of threatening the so-called "rogue countries," which are Arab countries, with annihilation, in the contribution to world peace of the American stockpiling of nuclear arms. GMA does that, and they'll cheer her too when she arrives at foreign hotels.

And she won't have to dance for it.

Comments to dequiros@vasia.net

Worms

THE OPPOSITION by some unnamed Philippine National Police officers to the conferment of the Medalya ng Kagitingan (Medal of Valor) on PNP Director Florencio Fianza can open a can of worms.

Fianza has been recommended for the medal, the highest award for valor in the PNP, by retired PNP Gen. Orlando Macaspac, for his role in defending Malacañang on May 1, 2001.

Fianza was originally recommended for the second highest decoration, Medalya ng Kabayanihan. The recommendation was upgraded after a review of the records and after it went through an internal screening process. The claim that the process was not transparent is false. When generals or officers are screened for medals or decorations, the process is not broadcast all over the media and does not invite the public to be part of the board of selectors.

But transparency is not the issue. The transcendence issue is why Fianza was in Malacañang at a critical moment to organize its defense during the attack of the mobs on the Palace.

A few months ago, I asked Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes why it took nearly six hours for reinforcements to arrive at the vicinity of the Palace before the operations to disperse the mobs could be mounted. Reyes told me, "There's an untold story there, and you have to investigate."

The insinuation of that statement is that there was either a disastrous intelligence failure or many officers of the armed forces and police were hedging their bets while the new government was struggling to survive against a rebellion staged by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Now, I have collected some of the missing pieces of the jigsaw puzzle behind the delayed reinforcements. Around midnight of April 29, at the peak of the opposition rally on Edsa, PNP Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane chaired a meeting of senior police officers, attended by, among others, Fianza, chief of the PNP directorate for human resources and doctrine for development, and Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, PNP director for operations. The meeting was tracking the march from Edsa to Malacañang,

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



during which the mobs knocked down police barriers along the way. By about 2 a.m., the mobs had flooded Mendiola and J.P. Laurel streets, and were knocking at Gate 7.

In that meeting at Camp Crame, Ebdane asked his officers who among them would go to the Palace. Fianza volunteered. The others went back to their respective posts. Fianza arrived at the Palace at 2:30, passing through San Miguel Street, where there were no demonstrators. The mobs were concentrated on Mendiola and J.P. Laurel.

The Palace outer perimeter was virtually undefended. The commander of the Presidential Guard, Brig. Gen. Glen Rabonza, concentrated his defense inside the Palace grounds. Why the mobs stopped at the Palace gates for more than three hours has not been fully explained. One explanation is that they reached the Palace so quickly that they did not receive further orders on what to do next after reaching Gate 7. The march clearly lost momentum. It was beyond dispute that if they stormed the gates, when the defense was only inside the Palace grounds, there would have been a bloody massacre.

Outside of the Presidential Guard, there was a leadership vacuum for the defense at Mendiola and J.P. Laurel. Reinforcements came in trickles after 2:30 a.m. First came units from the Western Police District, followed by units of an Army task force, the Navy and the Air force. Not until 8 a.m. was there sufficient reinforcements to launch a dispersal counterattack.

In the meantime, the question begs answers. Why was there a delay in reinforcements when it was clear the Palace was under siege and the seat of power was standing on a knife's edge? Those

who watched TV footage (including myself) were alarmed at the precarious state of the safety of the President and the slow arrival of reinforcements.

A crisis management meeting was convened at 8 a.m. by Secretary of Interior and Local Government Jose Lina, attended by Generals Rabonza, Fianza, Aglipay, and PNP Gen. Efrén Fernandez, among others. It was only then that operations to disperse the mobs were organized, with Fianza in charge. Between 2:30 a.m. and 8 a.m., there was a stand-off at Mendiola interrupted by pitch battles between troops and the mobs.

It can't be said that police and military units did not have the means of communication to respond quickly to relieve the siege of the Palace. At 10 a.m., eight hours after the mobs struck Gate 7, the operations to disperse began. The operations were launched only after sufficient reinforcements had arrived. The dispersal was methodical and casualties were light. But it can't be disputed that the Macapagal presidency survived by the skin of its teeth.

That there was an intelligence failure cannot be denied. Was the President informed of the dangerous movement at Edsa? Was it withheld from her? Did intelligence underestimate the dangers of the burgeoning rebellion? The day before the President was so confident the Edsa rallies had lost steam that she declared the danger of attack had fizzled, and she went to bed and slept soundly. This came after the Iglesia ni Cristo Net 25 stopped coverage of the incendiary rallies. She was lulled by complacency.

Fianza may not have been as valorous and heroic according to the standards of the opponents to the award of the medal, but he was right on spot to fill a dangerous vacuum. Where were his opponents in that critical period?

The fact that there are still many gaps of information leading to the explanation of the reinforcement delay calls for an inquiry and a white paper on the May 1 rebellion. It seems certain that this inquiry will lead to a disclosure of who were hedging their bets while the new government was in dire peril of being overthrown.

Universal uzis

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



by our students, instead of having to call our employers 'Ma'am' every day."

No matter how they struggle to hold up their heads, to assert the dignity of their honest and necessary labor, Filipinas working as domestics, especially those holding college degrees, must indeed feel they've been taken down a peg or two. And this may explain why the "Balik-Turo" program of the Department of Education held such seductive appeal to the women. Else, how to explain the queues that formed at the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong when the DepEd announced the exams and interviews for some 2,000 teaching positions reserved for licensed teachers who had left and found work abroad?

In "Babalik na si Ma'am," presented as part of the public affairs documentary show "I-Witness," reporter/writer/cameraman Howie Severino introduces us to a few of these intrepid women, balik-guros and returning heroes in every sense. Without resorting to dramatics or trying to create maudlin moments, Severino manages to tell stories filled with contradiction and reflecting the conflicted feelings of the returning teachers and the families on both ends of their journeys.

THE CENTRAL story in "Babalik na si Ma'am" revolves around Mercy Elegado who, after working in Hong Kong for more than a decade, decides to resume her profession among kin back in Isabela.

What makes Mercy's story memorable are her relations with the Cheung family, for whom she had been working for six years before she decided to return home. Moving indeed were the

scenes showing Mercy and her three young wards in the course of their lengthy parting, with Mercy wondering how the youngest, for whom she had been caring since his birth, would fare at night without her at his side.

At the airport, the children and their mother embrace Mercy, with the mother telling Mercy that she must return to Hong Kong soon to visit them "this time not as an employee but as our friend."

But as Severino says, "Mercy had been looking after a family in Hong Kong, in Isabela, she would be looking after the children of an entire barangay." "Babalik na si Ma'am" closes with a scene in which Mercy walks among her students, all of them calling out to her: "Bye, Ma'am, bye Ma'am," surely the culmination of a dream she had nursed through the lonely years in Hong Kong.

HOWIE says that Education Secretary Raul Roco made clear that no special favors or incentives were offered to the balik-teachers. Those who decided to take up the DepEd's offer had been working as OFW's for many years, and had in fact achieved their own homes and sending their children to school.

In short, in returning to the country and taking a pay cut, they were working no longer for security or survival, but out of a sense of service and a desire for dignity and stature. Sammie Saldares, for instance, chose to return to teaching so he could be with his children, though his wife Delia had to stay behind in Hong Kong. Mercy's husband has been working for over a decade in Saudi Arabia and was also set to join Mercy back in Isabela, where they would try to start a family now that they were financially secure.

"Babalik na si Ma'am" is the other side of the OFW story, a story of people making often-painful choices and nursing dreams. It is also the story, said Howie, of a country eternally in need of new heroes, and of people, the universal uzis, continually rising to the challenge.

I remember 'nanay'

MUCH had already been written about my father, the novelist-nationalist Lazaro Francisco but practically nothing about my mother, Trinidad P. Arrieta. She had remained unnoticed in the background all her life. Shy, served and devoted to her family, "Nanay" was the epitome of the ideal housewife in her time.

During our growing-up years in the '50s, there for all of us. She was the "constant" in our lives. While my father did all the earning, Nanay supported us all throughout our student days. She would always be up at the crack of dawn to prepare breakfast for the family. She did all the marketing, cooking and caring for her kids and for sometime, even the laundering of our clothes. There were 10 of us, siblings, in the family and one could just imagine how taxing it was for her to do the house-keeping chores in those times.

She mastered the art of scrimping every centavo on the meager budget. She could afford to give her so she could make both ends meet. Nevertheless, she saw to it that we were dressed decently and fed the best meals her money could buy.

When fellow writers from Manila would come to visit father in Cabanatuan, Nanay would cook for them the best tasting *tinolang manok*, *caldereta*, *lumpiang sarawa* and *palabok* in town. She would always get the highest compliments for her cooking skills and more often than not, the writers would notice how beautiful Nanay was. And to think that she never wore any kind of make-up except for baby powder. She was fair-skinned with rosy cheeks and red, full lips which gave her that unmistakable *mestiza* look.

Once when my friend, Dr. Eduardo Tinio, invited me to go with him to a town fiesta in Jaen, Nueva Ecija, I met an old village don, Mr. Julio Esquivel. Upon being introduced as a son of Lazaro Francisco, he told me pointblank, "So, your mother is Trining Arrieta! Why, she was the most beautiful maiden during our time, *hijo*!" Of course, I was taken aback, for I didn't realize until then that my mother was really that much of a beauty in her time. For one thing, my mother was so modest, she never told us much about her younger days. All I knew then was the fact that she was born in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, and that they later settled down in the neighboring town of Jaen, where there was where she eventually met my father who was then a struggling writer and a horseback-riding traveling clerk in the provincial treasurer's office based in Cabanatuan.

It was much later that I learned that Nanay once won as Miss Jaen and later went on to become Miss Nueva Ecija in a popularity contest conducted by the Philippines Free Press in the mid-'20s. It was while sorting out old letters, papers and memorabilia left by my father to be donated to the University of the Philippines Library and Archives that I stumbled upon an old, worn-out copy of Filipina beautiful an exquisite album containing the pictures of 46 beautiful Filipinas representing the different provinces of the archipelago. And lo and behold—there was the beautiful picture of Nanay on page 9—youthful and alluring at 18 representing the province of Nueva Ecija!

When my father was alive, he used to tell us that Nanay was a "living saint." A self-effacing lady with no makeup in her body, she was happy just staying in the background. When an older brother left home for college, she offered the few pieces of jewelry she inherited from her mother to be pawned anytime. She was ever ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of her children.

Often complimented later, for having raised nine children who became all successful professionals, she would humbly say that her children did it on their own and that she and father only "saw them through." It was a proud moment in her life when she and father were honored as "Parents of the Year" in our city in the mid-'60s.

I couldn't remember seeing Nanay lose her temper. She never spanked anyone of her children. She would just reprimand us, instead, in her own gentle way. I really don't know how she was able to do it. As far as I could remember, I never heard her complain and she just kept on working, working at home. A kind and caring woman, she was always there to give us moral support, encouragement and a shoulder to cry on during our most trying times.

When she turned 90 in 1996, we gave her a grand birthday party and it was a most happy and memorable event for her and for all of us. During her last years, she would quietly pray during most of her waking hours and would often tell us that she was ready to go anytime for her mission had already been accomplished.

A few weeks before her 94th birthday, she passed away peacefully and I would like to believe, happily, on June 20. My becoming a doctor, I owe only to two persons—my father and Nanay. For me, she was indeed the best mother in the world. She touched our lives like a benediction and made them much, much richer. We now miss her so, but somehow we're consoled with the thought that she's now up there, beyond pain and heartaches. As my sister-in-law, Mellicie, wrote, "She did not die, she only slipped away into the next room." Indeed, nothing beautiful in this world is really lost—those we cherish will always remain alive in our memories.

THEY SAID

The right thing

"On the question that the majority would not like to consider the views of the minority, that is not true. We would always consider the view of the minority because that is the right thing to do."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo

Time catches up

"I thank God for allowing my time has finally caught up with me."

—Rep. Oscar Moreno on Ombudsman Antonio Desierto

People will be watching

"To the criminals who comprise the bulk of our society, I say, it will not only be policemen and law enforcers who will be watching over you, but the majority of Filipino people who have become united to fight crime in their longing for peace, order and prosperity in our country."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Two-way street

"We have been accusing the BIR of being a two-way street. After all, let us all submit ourselves to an audit. After all, it's a two-way street."

—Rep. Prospero Nograles

A veritable bridge to the past

THE PAST two weeks I have been reading and reacting to the papers of my students who were required to visit a number of museums in Manila: The National Museum, the Metropolitan Museum (for the pre-colonial gold and earthenware in the basement), San Agustin Museum, and Casa Manila. Their experience of boredom was no different from my own museum visits as a student. They had better things to do with their free time, or so they thought.

In grade school we were herded off to various museums and rushed through the halls. You were not allowed to talk, touch, or think. If an object caught your fancy and you wanted to look closer, linger a bit longer, the guide or teacher would hiss menacingly and you moved on. Talking to students from out of town recently I learned they were bored and rushed through all museums in the morning so they could have more time in the afternoon for a stroll in a mall. For others the educational highlight of their field trip to Manila was to watch an inane noontime show live in the studio. These visits do not develop a desire to revisit the museum in the future.

My students often contrast their grade school visits with those in college. This time they come armed with assigned readings and guide questions. They went at their own pace, in smaller groups, sometimes with their respective boyfriends or girlfriends which made the trips memorable in more ways than one. Most of them leave the National Museum with a resolution never to look at another piece of blue and white porcelain as long as they live. The Museum is bursting with these but they are not

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



experts or even remotely interested in Oriental ceramics. They cannot get excited over the various shapes, designs, and glazes. Few notice the freely drawn frolicking foo dogs, and lovey-dovey ducks and their symbolism. To get them to look more than once, to notice details and generate interest is a challenge because to the uninitiated porcelain starts to look all alike after awhile.

When the students put the ceramics in a historical context, in terms of period, style, and place of manufacture, they learn not only how archeologists date their excavation sites, but more importantly they see evidence of pre-Spanish trade between early Filipinos and porcelain manufacturers in China, Thailand, and Vietnam. More challenging is getting the students to see and notice the Philippine earthenware, which looks crude compared to Oriental ceramics. I thought so myself until I imagined myself transported back two thousand years and realized that to turn mud into earthenware one needed fire. If early Filipinos had fire and earthenware then they cooked their food. If they had earthenware vessels then they could store water in places other than rolled

gabi leaves, empty coconut shells or bamboo tubes. Though primitive looking the *palayok* tells us much about the way early Filipinos lived and marks a technological leap that comes with fire.

Then of course, we fail to see how the Chinese flooded the market with high-fired beautiful porcelain, killing off our own *palayok* industry that discouraged the development of earthenware. Our so-called "colonial mentality" which is manifested by preference for imported goods was active in the Philippines long before we were colonized by Spain. We rarely stop to wonder why we have to pay more today for a Philippine mango than a red delicious apple from China? The artifacts in the museum can be a bridge that links the past and the present. Another example would be the stone tools of the early Filipinos. There are so many displayed in the museum, but if you see one of these in the street or in your garden today you will not notice. Stone tools are dead artifacts, unless you imagine yourself stranded in a deserted island—with no modern conveniences. A polished flake tool can literally change your life; when the students go beyond mere looking and start to use the artifacts to generate their own stories and their own conclusions, then the museum visit has served its purpose. There is much to see and think about, but the main challenge is getting Filipinos students and non-students to visit and revisit museums to generate new ideas from old things.

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Gov't should ratify Kyoto Protocol

AS the global community of nations looks forward to the launch of Rio+10 in Johannesburg later this month, the Philippine Network on Climate Change (PNCC), a coalition of non-government organizations involved in the issue of climate change, strongly urges the Philippine government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

The protocol is an important step toward the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed upon in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It entered into

force in 1994. The primary aim of the UNFCCC is to stabilize concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Scientific evidence reveals that to halt global warming, we need to reduce 60 to 80 percent of the global carbon emissions.

The ratification by the Philippine government of the treaty will constitute a reaffirmation of its commitment to the Rio Principles. There is no more opportune time than now to leave another important legacy for the sake of humanity and the living environment.

By ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, we exert more pressure on developed countries, which bear primary historical responsibility for this phenomenon, to hasten their ratification process of the accord and reduce their emissions accordingly. To enter into force, the protocol needs to be ratified by at least 55 countries making emission reduction commitments, which together must account for at least 55 percent of total emissions of 1990 levels. At present, there are 84 signatories and 54 parties to the protocol.

Without the treaty entering into force, this upsurge of emissions will continue, posing serious risks to poor developing countries like the Philippines that are the least to blame for this phenomenon but are the most vulnerable and the least capable of addressing.

We therefore urge the Senate to expedite the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol without delay. Indeed, this act in itself is a step forward to securing a sustainable future for the present generation of Filipinos and those to come.

WITH EIGHT SIGNATORIES

An act of desperation

REP Prospero Pichay is his own worst enemy. In hurling a charge of extortion against me in my department's dealings with Picop, he betrayed his own sinister proclivities. For that wild charge is, obviously, an afterthought, conjured after it was made sufficiently clear to him and his benefactor, Picop's owner Teodoro Bernardino, that Picop's logging concession could be automatically converted into an integrated forest management agreement without due observance of process and law.

What Pichay and Bernardino actually wanted was a presidential warrant, an instrument used by Ferdinand Marcos to benefit his cronies during the martial law regime. In effect, that warranty would have automatically extended Picop's logging concession, without Picop being required to pay the government almost P500 million in back taxes and surcharges as well as fines for flagrant violations of forestry regulations and environmental laws.

But the Constitution frowns on such iniquitous instruments, which in the long run will deprive government of billions of pesos in revenues and allow the wanton destruction of the environment. Public officials, including lawmakers like Pichay, should be advised not to be too hasty in seeking such an instrument just to please their patrons.

If their extortion charge were true, these two men would not have hesitated to confront me with it during the Commission on Appointments hearings on my

nomination last May. They never did. They waited for two months, the time it took them to concoct the story.

Obviously, the charge is an act of desperation. It was fabricated by men who were either too impatient to deal with the government in a regular manner or too greedy to accept that the government needs to get a just share from the proceeds of the exploitation of the country's natural resources.

Despite Pichay's repeated denials that he is lawyering for Bernardino, not too many people find it credible that he is doing all this for the sake of his constituents. Not from a man who is known to be a purveyor of smut and a leader of that notorious Gang of Five at the House of Representatives.

Both Pichay and Bernardino are prey to their own moral blindness, which is instinctive rather than reasoned. Pichay is blinded by his canine-loyalty to Bernardino, who refuses to see a situation where he has to follow the processes set by law to secure a renewal of his timber-cutting license. With his connections, he thinks he can get away with anything.

Well, not this time. DENR officials, mindful of their duties, will never succumb to pressures such as those being exerted by Pichay and Bernardino.

—HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, secretary, Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources

What are we doing about the tragedy of internal displacement?

IN THE PHILIPPINES, where the prevailing idea of a disaster are those brought about by typhoons, earthquakes and floods, the phenomenon of internal displacement, as a consequence of armed conflict, has already reached a proportion that could no longer be ignored. More than 1 million people have already been affected by armed clashes since the government responded with an all-out military assault against Moro revolutionary fronts and criminal groups two years ago. This is nearly as many as those displaced by natural calamities placed by the Global IDP Project to be at 1.5 million people in 2001.

Though the total war policy was lifted by President Macapagal-Arroyo when she became chief executive in 2001, bombing operations and military actions against Moro rebels and the Abu Sayyaf terror group are taking their heavy toll on civilian populations. This has placed the Philippines on the list of top 40 countries all over the world where internal displacement is considered a great disaster. In Southeast Asia, the Philippines ranks third after Burma and Indonesia as countries with most number of internally displaced persons.

The civilians caught in the line of fire are easily regarded as "collateral damage"—military jargon that found its way into the vocabulary of the Philippine armed forces and some government leaders. The term was widely used by American soldiers in Vietnam to depersonalize and desensitize them from



the suffering and loss of thousands of lives of civilians because of their war of aggression.

The problem with this view is that the IDPs are simply regarded as casualties of war, and not as persons who are entitled to human rights protection as any other human beings.

When internal displacement happens, the physical effects are obvious and are the ones usually noticed—loss of lives, destruction of homes, property, livestock, workplaces, schools, places of worship. Too often, the emotional effects of internal displacement are taken as a normal reaction to a tragedy—which they truly are—but are taken for

granted as a passing response to an extraordinary situation. It is seldom considered, especially by state authorities, government social workers and private service providers, that even more than the physical effects of disasters, the traumatic effects cause long lasting suffering, disability that impair their enjoyment of human rights in a situation of normal and meaningful functioning of individuals, families and communities.

Those driven away from their homes and communities by armed conflict, militarization and forced evictions are not mere "collateral damage" that can be dispensed with purportedly due

to the demand of national security. Neither are the victims of political repression casualties in a political contest. Rather, these people are human beings who are being denied their very right to life, freedom and development. While members of the civil society have the obligation to observe the rights of each other, the International Bill of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law have ruled that governments have the duty to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of the peoples that they serve.

—ELIAS G. SALAZAR, regional officer, Central Mindanao Region, Balay Rehabilitation Center Inc.

Inciting contempt and outrage

FOR THE COMELEC commissioners to drive around town with a fleet of Cefiros and SUVs as personal vehicles and back-up cars certainly only incites nothing less than public contempt and outrage.

When the majority of us live below the poverty line, when the ordinary wage earner can hardly afford to buy P60 a kilo worth of *galunggong*, the acquisition of those luxury vehicles by the Comelec brass and chairman Abalos' acquiescence, only serves to magnify how insensitive they all are to the plight of the poor, or at the

least, to the condition of Comelec's offices and men in the provinces. Here in Tuguegarao alone, the provincial Comelec office is housed in a dilapidated building, without a telephone ever since, not a single computer, just one or two pre-war Underwood typewriters and a few old wooden cabinets. Maybe this explains why some Comelec employees are only seen in their offices during elections and disappear after.

—JACKSON G. CARODAN, Bgy. Catagman Viejo, Tuguegarao City

Mistake to let Alvarez go

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will make a horrible mistake if she lets go of Environment Secretary Heheron Alvarez. I have known Alvarez for 30 years and I have never met a man so knowledgeable, humble, dedicated and committed to environmental causes as Alvarez. The incumbent secretary firmly believes that by improving the environment, substantial investments will filter into the industry thereby creating thousands of jobs and protecting the health of our people. Ask Paul Lewis of Forestech, Australia, and he will tell you that he has never met a man like Alvarez who is so concerned and caring

about the Filipino people. Ask President Kim Dae-Jung of South Korea and he will tell you the in-depth comprehension of Alvarez with regard to his opposition to garbage incinerators due to dioxin emission and his strong advocacy of improving our landfills to minimize water contamination. I fervently hope that President Macapagal will consider the credibility, enforcement of environmental law and the qualifications of Alvarez before she succumbs to the irresponsible, unjust and unfair assertions of Alvarez's detractors.

—DANNY LAMILA, d.lamila@att.net

Biorhythmic compatibility scores

NOW that Blas Ople has formally assumed the position of secretary of foreign affairs, it is well to find out if he and President Macapagal-Arroyo will be working more harmoniously with him in contrast to Vice President Teofisto Guingona who was forced to resign due to differences in their view of foreign policy.

If only President Macapagal bothered to check her compatibility score with Guingona, she would've avoided the hassles generated between them over the holding of joint military exercises by Philippine and American

troops in the country. Based on their biorhythm compatibility, Guingona and Macapagal had a lower total of 116 points compared to those of Ople and Macapagal is high at 149.

Macapagal said Guingona scored relatively well in their physical compatibility with 57, emotional at 50 but their intellectual compatibility was a rather low 9 points!

On the other hand, Macapagal and Ople have 48 physical compatibility, 43 emotional and a higher 58 intellectual compatibility.

—FROILAN C. ANTONIO, 27 Moldero St., BF Homes, QC

Discrimination against Catholic priest?

YESTERDAY afternoon (July 24) I was invited to go to Manila Sanitarium by the relatives of a sick patient, to administer to her since she was a Catholic. I completed the anointing of the sick in the presence of some relatives and two doctors who were giving her medical attention. The doctors were most cooperative and friendly.

On my way out I passed by the nurse's station and requested for the patient's chart so that I could write a brief note of what I had done for the patient. This is a common practice by attending priests so that another priest may

know what spiritual needs of the patient had been cared for. I have done this at Far Eastern University Hospital, UERM Hospital, PGH, Ospital ng Maynila. This time the nurses refused to give me the chart and I must say that their refusal was discourteous. I was wondering why I was refused when other hospitals complied with my request. Was it a question of discrimination against a Catholic priest since this hospital is administered by the Seventh Day Adventist sect?

—REV. FR. EAMONN BYRNE, Malate Catholic Church, 1016 M.H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila

Erratum

THE column titled "Imperial Manila," which came out Monday under Kris-Crossing Mindanao, was written by Antonio Montalvan and not Datu Amir Baraguir. We apologize for the error.

Irrelevant to Philippine society

IT normally would make me proud to be part of a valedictory address of a senator, even if what was mentioned about me was not complimentary, if only that valedictory address did not have to go through paid ads to make it to newspapers that people read.

But I should have expected it anyway because Mr. Blas Ople has long been irrelevant to Philippine society and developed some value only as a potential tie-breaker to a Senate deadlock. Even there, history passed him by as a younger colleague entered the ranks of the majority without having a price tag on his difficult decision.

I have to depend, as always, on the sense of fairness and generosity of media outlets and practitioners to have my side aired against the hundreds of thousands of pesos spent to buy full-page ads just to print a valedictory address which otherwise would have passed as absolutely meaningless to the Filipino people. But that is all it takes—one concerned patri-

ot to take on an unproductive public official whose greatest claim to fame is faithfully serving and going down with two disgraceful and deposed masters.

When I and Copa objected to the recruitment of Mr. Ople as the new secretary of foreign affairs, something that was initially denied by the administration, it was not because of his being an Amboy. It was because he did not deserve the position from his skill as diplomat and his understanding of geopolitics or from his political alliances and stature. It was Ople's choice and not mine to serve a dictator and lobby for him even as American helicopters were flying him out of Malacañang. It was Ople's choice to make little or defend the public scandals of Estrada by asking that Teofisto Guingona be expelled from the Senate after accusing Ople's master of being the lord of all gambling lords. It has been Ople's choice, and not the people's, to miss the higher calling of public officials of transcending

partisanship when a nation's values are at stake. And it remains Ople's choice to remain defiant and unrepentant for serving two masters repudiated by people power.

Mr. Ople said much of his accomplishments in being a student of the history of the United States and of his library stacked with books related to American history. He graciously mentioned being a friend of China, Japan and the European Union. He still misses the point despite his age.

He does not understand that the primary requirement of being the nation's top diplomat is not his academic knowledge of the political evolution of other countries but his intimacy with his own country's history. What is the relevance of a senior Filipino public official's grasp of the American revolution when he is not grounded on the Kartilya, the Dekalogo?

Who is Ople's master, America or the Philippines?

I am proud to be in the compa-

P30M for junkets to Asian Games in Busan

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission Chairman Eric Buhain has committed P30 million to fund the participation of the Philippine athletic delegation to the Busan Asian Games in September, about two months from now. This amount will finance the trip of 300 athletes. As of last count, only about 150 athletes have met the prescribed qualifying standard: bronze medal finish in the last Southeast Asian Games. This qualifying standard had been criticized as too low and will only make junketeers of most of the

athletes who will go the games.

However, because of the availability of funds, the Philippine Olympic Committee and the PSC are now considering "relaxing the prohibitive criteria which is currently being used to screen the national delegation." (PDI, July 16, 2002). With the government running a bloated deficit, this proposal of the POC and PSC is downright scandalous, shameful, and unpatriotic. There is nothing prohibitive in the criteria for selecting the athletes because the bronze medal records in the last Southeast Asian games

are very much inferior when compared to existing Asian games performances. But as one sports columnist observed, this proposal to relax the qualifying standard is "true to form" as it merely duplicates past practices where the PSC and POC at the start promise to send a "lean and mean team" to international sports competitions, but end up with a bloated delegation of junketeers. It is of public knowledge that the usual motive for increasing the number of athletes is to justify the inclusion of more officials in the delegation.

Chairman Buhain should put a stop to this illegal spending of people's money by sports officials by reducing to half the P30 million financial aid he committed to the POC and utilize the remaining amount to procure sports equipment for school physical education and intramural programs. We cannot afford to have junketeers at a time when the government is in dire financial straits.

—APARICIO H. MEQUI, president, Phil. Association of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE), 109 Valenzuela St., UP Diliman, QC

Thank Neda there's no new Mindoro province

KUDOS to Neda for making the right decision and seeing the wisdom of not approving the plan to create another Mindoro province to be called Mindoro del Sur.

According to Neda, its disapproval of the plan considered the interest of the people of Mindoro from an economic standpoint because the creation of a new province at this time would only impoverish the two (2) Mindoro

provinces.

I think it is time that our penchant for creating new provinces was stopped because I believe, we have already too many of them (we have already 79) for a very small country like ours.

Indonesia (an archipelago like the Philippines) whose land area is six times larger (735,269 square miles to our 115,830 square miles) has only thirteen

(13) provinces. Another important point to consider is the fact that to create a new province at this time will cost us at least P225 million. Where in the world would we get that big amount of money when the government is suffering from a very big budget deficit?

In fact, because of our "love" for creating new local government units, our teachers and stu-

dents have lost track of the exact number of our provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays that we have in our country. Do you know that during the time of President Marcos, we had only 66 provinces? Which means that since 1986, we have created 13 new provinces, or roughly one new province a year.

—PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Mandalay, Marikina City

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



A PALESTINIAN youth receives training on how to infiltrate Jewish settlements during a 'Jenin Martyrs Brigades' camp in Brig refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, August 5.

UN calls for Israel pullout

UNITED NATIONS—The UN General Assembly passed a resolution on Monday expressing grave concern over Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian cities and the "dire humanitarian situation" facing the Palestinian people.

The resolution, drafted jointly by European Union and Palestinian envoys and approved 114-4 with 11 abstentions, marked a major victory for the Palestinians, who softened an earlier draft harshly critical of Israel to broaden support among the General Assembly's 189-member nations.

The resolution repeated calls for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian cities and towns and stressed the need for free access to those areas by medical and humanitarian relief organizations.

While it fell short of an initial EU demand for explicit condemnation of Palestinian suicide bombings, the resolution condemned "all attacks against civilians on both sides." The vote, coming amid surging Middle East violence aimed at both Israelis and Palestinians, capped a day-long debate on a UN report released last week regarding the March 29 Israeli military thrust into the Jenin refugee camp following a wave of deadly suicide bombings inside Israel.

The report, prompted by Palestinian allegations of a massacre in the West Bank camp, found no evidence that a massacre took place but said Israel had used excessive force in densely populated areas and kept out medical and aid workers.

Prepared from publicly available information at the General Assembly's request after Israel blocked a UN fact-finding mission from visiting Jenin, the report also faulted the Palestinians for letting armed fighters live in civilian homes in the camp.

Palestinian UN Observer Nasser al-Kidwa said the report confirmed that "the Israeli occupying forces have committed war crimes, atrocities and other serious violations" of international humanitarian law.

While Israel "has been trying to portray all of its policies and practices as simply a response to the suicide bombings, nothing could be further from the truth," he said.

"The reality is that this is a situation of foreign occupation," he said. "As a matter of principle, resisting Israeli occupation, Israeli colonization and settlements, and indeed the Israeli invasion of our cities and refugee camps is our right if not our duty." Israeli Ambassador Aaron Jacob dismissed al-Kidwa's view of the report as "an alternate reality" and accused the Palestinians of being "willfully blind to the heartless acts of Palestinian terrorism and their toll in innocent lives."

"Terrorism is not and cannot be a negotiating tactic," Jacob said, accusing the assembly of pursuing "Israel-bashing initiatives" that undermined the peace process. *Reuters*

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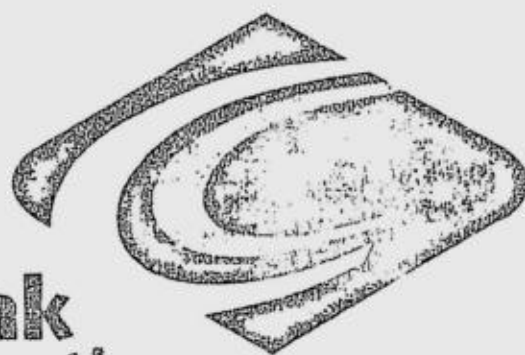


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Traders worry cornered Saddam may hit oil supplies

LONDON—Predicting Saddam Hussein's next move has never been easy.

Therefore oil companies making contingency plans for a possible US military campaign to topple the Iraqi president are preparing for the worst-case scenario—a cornered Saddam attacking oil facilities in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

That would deprive consumers of millions of barrels of crude as oil prices rocket.

"If Saddam feels that he is toast and has three or four weeks

left in power, he is going to cause as much mayhem as possible and hit out at Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the worst case scenario," said a trader with a leading oil major.

"We have factored this into our calculations." Oil dealers have focused on the fate of Iraq since US

President George W. Bush branded the OPEC producer part of an "axis of evil" supporting terrorism and developing weapons of mass destruction and demanded that Baghdad allow UN weapons inspectors back in.

Uncertainty has deepened because this time around the United States is spoiling for Saddam's overthrow, raising fears that his retaliation could be radical.

Iraq would not have to look far to wreak havoc. The country borders fellow OPEC oil giants Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran—all sworn enemies of Baghdad over the years.

"The abstract fear is that he may lash out against the (Saudi Arabia's) Ras Tanura facilities and Kuwait. The combined supply loss of Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait is irreplaceable," said Michael

Rothman of Merrill Lynch.

Even a short-lived threat of such unmanageable losses, amounting to about 11 million bpd of crude, could send prices higher than the \$40 level hit after Iraqi tanks rumbled into Kuwait in August 1990.

Saddam already took the market by surprise with a month-long oil embargo in April to protest Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Traders have learned to live with temporary losses in Iraqi exports, which are running at just 1.2 million barrels per day so far this

year, a million bpd below capacity.

And the world's biggest oil exporter Saudi Arabia has promised to fill any Iraqi supply gaps.

But traders worry a Saddam fighting to survive may fire the ultimate oil weapon after removing Iraqi crude from the market.

Oil traders make painstaking forecasts of everything from refining margins to weather patterns to safeguard profits.

Now they are attempting the impossible—trying to read the mind of a man accused of gassing his own people and who once

threatened to burn half of Israel.

"We are cautious. We are looking at contingency plans. Trying to figure out if A leads to B how should we react. But we don't have a strategy yet for the different scenarios," said another oil trader.

Oil companies may take comfort in knowing that making a significant hole in Saudi and Kuwait crude exports would not be easy. Iraq's Scud missiles, Saddam's inaccurate weapon of choice to rattle neighbors in the Gulf War, are not seen as a serious threat. **Reuters**

Hiroshima laments nuke horror fading

HIROSHIMA, Japan—The mayor of Hiroshima marked the anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing with a sharp rebuke for what critics charge is US President George W. Bush's unilateral diplomacy—and an invitation to Bush to visit the city destroyed in a nuclear inferno 57 years ago.

In an annual ritual of remembrance for the more than 220,000 people who ultimately died from the blast, a crowd including survivors, children and dignitaries gathered at Hiroshima's Peace Park, near ground zero where the bomb was dropped.

The anniversary comes days after a reminder that Japan—which has made much of its status as the only nation to suffer a nuclear attack—was researching an atomic bomb during World War Two, and just months after a top politician hinted Tokyo might someday abandon its decades-old ban on nuclear weapons.

The Peace Bell tolled at 8:15 a.m.—the precise moment the Enola Gay B-29 warplane dropped the bomb on August 6, 1945—as the crowd stood and bowed their heads for a minute of silence in the still summer heat.

The United States dropped a second atomic bomb on the southern city of Nagasaki on August 9. Six days later, Japan surrendered.

Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba lamented the world's growing tendency to forget the horrors of the atomic bomb and warned his audience that the dangers of nuclear war were rising.

"What is even more bitter is that those memories are fading from the world," he said. He added that the possibility of history's repeating itself had grown since the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Akiba invited Bush to Hiroshima "to confirm with his own eyes what nuclear weapons can do to human beings" and lashed out at Washington's go-it-alone stance.

"America has not been given the right to impose a 'Pax Americana' and to decide the fate of the world," Akiba said. **Reuters**



DOVES fly over Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park and past the A-bomb Dome during a ceremony marking the 57th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city August 6. The mayor of Hiroshima marked the anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing of a population with a sharp rebuke for what critics charge is US President George Bush's unilateral diplomacy. **REUTERS**

West Nile virus spreads to 3 US states

WASHINGTON—West Nile virus spread to three new states over the weekend and has now infected 88 people and killed four of them, health officials said on Monday.

Describing an outbreak that has taken firm hold in the United States and is spreading more quickly than expected, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said more suspected cases are being checked out in several states.

"A total of 88 cases... have been reported—58 in Louisiana, 22 in Mississippi and eight in Texas," CDC head Dr. Julie Gerberding said.

"Thirty-four states have recognized West Nile virus in mosquitoes or birds and those states primarily are on the East Coast of the United States," Gerberding added. South Dakota, Minnesota and West Virginia all reported cases in birds or mosquitoes for the first time this week.

West Nile was first reported in the US in 1999 and health officials say they will probably never know how it got carried across the Atlantic from Africa, the Middle East and southern Europe.

It normally infects birds, but mosquitoes become infected when they feed on birds and can then carry it to people.

A few of the people who become infected develop flu-like symptoms such as fever and muscle aches, and a small percentage of these can develop encephalitis or meningitis—inflammations of the brain and spinal cord. These can turn deadly, especially in the elderly. **Reuters**

8 Hindu pilgrims killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India—Suspected Islamic militants lobbed a grenade and opened fire Tuesday on Hindu pilgrims in Kashmir, killing eight of them and wounding 27, police said. In other parts of the disputed region, five suspected militants and three soldiers were killed, a news report said.

The violence could exacerbate the already serious tensions between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, who have been on a war footing for eight months due to similar attacks. New Delhi accuses Islamabad of backing the Islamic guerrillas fighting for Kashmir's independence or merger with Pakistan.

Police suspect Islamic militants were behind the ambush of the pilgrims that occurred at 5:20 a.m. A half dozen militants sneaked into the pilgrimage transit camp in Nunwan, about 90 km southeast of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's northern Jammu-Kashmir state, according to Nirmal Raj, commander of the Central Reserve Police guarding the camp.

He said the police retaliated, killing one of the rebels. The army surrounded the area and were combing the hills for the other suspects.

In three other clashes Tuesday, five suspected militants and three army soldiers were killed, the independent Press Trust of India news agency said. **AP**

Armed anti-Aristide protesters seize control of city

GONAIVES, Haiti—Calling for an uprising against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, thousands of protesters, some armed, flung stones at outnumbered police and blocked streets with flaming tires.

"We're going to feed Aristide to the fire!" people once loyal to the former slum priest yelled Monday night, standing near a smoldering barricade in Gonaives.

The hulks of several cars devoured by flames littered the streets of the west-coast port 100 km from Port-au-Prince, the capital.

The acrid odors of burnt tires and tear gas lay over the city, and the words of people who have turned against

Aristide were similarly bitter.

"He betrayed us," said 54-year-old carpenter Jean Simeon, who contradicted Aristide's claims of a coup attempt on the National Palace on Dec. 17.

"Aristide sent messengers at midnight Dec. 16 to order us to defend him against the coup d'etat," Simeon said. "We were told to crush the opposition."

An Organization of American States report found the attack began about an hour and a half after midnight, and was not the coup Aristide claimed.

At least 10 people died in the palace attack and subsequent violence. The opposition claims it was staged to pro-

vide an excuse to silence dissent.

The violence that began in Gonaives on Friday, and the apparent inability of the police to restore order is another sign of growing lawlessness in Haiti, which has been bedeviled by dictatorships and power struggles since its independence from France in 1804.

On Monday, the thousands of demonstrators vastly outnumbered about two dozen riot police who fired tear gas but were forced to retreat, said reporter Jean-Claude Noel of independent Radio Vision 2000.

No one was reported injured, even as protesters threw stones and yelled

"Down with Aristide!"

"Today the people have taken possession of Gonaives," protest leader Jean Tatoune said. "Aristide has to go."

Tatoune, who was a leading figure in the 1986 popular uprising that brought down the Duvalier family dictatorship, was one of 159 prisoners who escaped Friday when armed supporters of a formerly pro-Aristide street gang crashed a stolen tractor through a prison wall.

The gunmen set fire to Gonaives city hall and the courthouse, gutting them. Only three escaped convicts were captured. **AP**

UK minister to visit Libya

LONDON—A British minister will Tuesday visit Libya for the first time in almost 20 years, to call on the country's leadership to show its commitment to the international war against terrorism, Downing Street announced.

Mike O'Brien, minister for the Middle East, said he was heading to Libya at the request of Prime Minister Tony Blair with the task of also quizzing Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi on his country's commitment to the fight against weapons of mass destruction.

The three-day visit comes amid mounting speculation that the United States and Britain are preparing the ground for a possible military strike on Iraq, accused by the two Western allies of developing such weapons.

O'Brien stressed that his visit to Libya would not be a "make or break mission". "It is part of a process which has been going on for four years," he said in a statement released ahead of his departure. **AFP**

Surgeons begin to separate veins, skulls of conjoined twins

LOS ANGELES—Surgeons in Los Angeles were expected to keep operating into Monday evening on a long and possibly risky operation to separate twin Guatemalan 1-year-old girls who are joined at the top of their heads.

The rare and complicated surgery to separate the veins and skulls of Maria Teresa and Maria de Jesus Quiej-Alvarez started about 8 a.m. PDT (11 p.m. in Manila) on Monday, according to the Mattel Children's Hospital at the University of California at Los Angeles.

"The surgery is continuing. We don't know how much longer they will need," said UCLA spokesperson Dan Page. The operation was originally expected to last 10 hours or more.

The girls were born in rural Guatemala with their heads fused and their faces tilted in opposite directions.

Earlier at a news conference, UCLA Medical Center Director Dr. Michael Karpf said doctors were "cautiously optimistic" about the separation surgery.

"Their mother and father were there to give them a kiss before they were wheeled into the operating room," Page said. **Reuters**

Although their brains function independently and each girl possesses normal arteries feeding the brain, tests show that some of the veins draining the brain return to the other twin, officials said.

The doctors need to protect and reroute those veins normally, or both twins may be at risk for stroke.

"The biggest problem they may face is that kids share the main vein that returns blood to the heart," said Dr. Steven Giannotta, a professor of neurosurgery at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine who is not involved in the surgery.

"There may be collateral channels for the blood flow, so one twin could be left with the main vein," he said, noting that there could still be a risk of neurological damage.

Page said a lot of things could happen to add time to the surgery and the entire procedure could take much longer than 10 hours.

Conjoined twins occur once in every 200,000 live births, but twins who are fused at the tops of their heads, known as craniopagus twins, make up only about 2 percent of those. **Reuters**



WENCESLAO Quiej smiles as he lifts up his conjoined twin daughters Maria de Jesus and Maria Teresa in their hospital room at the Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA, August 4, in Los Angeles. **REUTERS**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2002

11 Pinochet associates jailed for 1982 murder of union leader

SANTIAGO—Eleven former high ranking members of the dictatorship of ailing general Augusto Pinochet were sentenced to prison Monday for the murder of union leader Tucapel Jimenez, court sources said.

Retired major Carlos Herrera Jimenez was condemned to life in prison for the 1982 murder and kidnap of Jimenez, the head of a union representing civil servants whose bullet-riddled body was found on the outskirts of the capital, his throat slit.

Retired general Ramon Alvarez was ordered by Judge Sergio Muñoz to spend the next 10 years of his life behind bars. The nine other defendants were also

sentenced to prison time in the first convictions of top officials of the 27-year-long Pinochet era.

A week before he was murdered, Jimenez had launched an appeal to workers to stand united and demand the end to Pinochet's rule.

Though there was nothing to suggest Pinochet was involved in any way in the murder, Tucapel Jimenez Fuentetaja—the slain union leader's son—accused the ailing former dictator of complicity in the plot.

After 17 years of the case languishing in the hands of Judge Sergio Valenzuela Patino, Muñoz took it over three years ago and moved to both investigate and indict the top military commanders of the Pinochet era.

The 86-year-old Pinochet, suffering from a string of ailments including dementia, was on July 1 found mentally unfit by the Supreme Court to stand trial on murder and kidnapping charges related to atrocities carried out under his rule.

He had faced some 300 charges concerning the deaths and disappearances of more than 3,000 of his political opponents during his time in office.

A Santiago court said July 29 however it would consider an Argentine judge's request to strip Augusto Pinochet of the immunity he enjoys as a former president, allowing him to be questioned about a 1974 car bombing of an opponent.

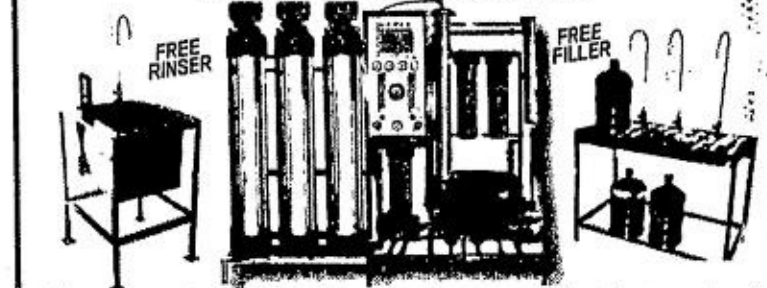
Argentine judge Maria Servini

de Cubria wants to question Pinochet about the murder of Chilean general Carlos Prats, a political opponent, and his wife in a car bombing long suspected to be the work of Chilean agents.

Santiago appeals court Judge Carlos Cerda said a preliminary hearing on Pinochet's immunity was set for August 6. Pinochet's lawyers have asked for the hearing to be suspended.

Prats and his wife, Sofia Cuthbert, exiled in Argentina, were killed in a car bomb blast in the Palermo district of Buenos Aires on September 30, 1974, a year after the bloody coup that ended the democratic regime of Socialist president Salvador Allende. AFP

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Roof gardens cool down Japan cities

By Chang-Ran Kim

TOKYO—At a run-down three-story office block in downtown Tokyo, government clerks and secretaries cool off amongst azaleas, hydrangeas and even blueberry bushes during coffee breaks, seemingly far away from the sweltering urban heat.

The garden is not a perk for bureaucrats or reckless use of taxes in a city with some of the world's priciest real estate.

It's on the roof and, what's more, it's saving money.

The oasis is the brainchild of Kazuyoshi Kojima, a 52-year-old public servant spearheading the drive to lower temperatures in Japan's cities.

Trapped by concrete and asphalt, the heat from heavy traffic and millions of air-conditioning units have made summer in the cities hotter—a phenomenon known as the "heat-island effect." "The rooftop garden helps to absorb heat and keeps temperatures inside the building lower," Kojima says.

"We used to set the air-conditioner at 20 degrees Celsius, and it was still unbearably hot. By having the garden up top, a setting of 27 or 28 degrees is just right."

Reduced power costs

Similarly, in the winter the building only needs one hour of heating; for the rest of the day the heat is contained, significantly reducing electricity costs.

The drive to cool down Tokyo's summers comes not a moment too soon. Last month, the temperature in the city of 12 million averaged 28.0 degrees Celsius, almost three degrees higher than it was in the same month 30 years ago.

In 1972, there was just one day in July when the temperature did not fall under 25 degrees, compared with 15 days this year.

Plenty of ideas have been suggested to beat the heat, including one that would involve running cool water through a huge labyrinth of pipes under the city.

But that could be years away, and the scheme could possibly damage the fragile marine ecosystem as the warmed water is dumped back into sea.

Assigned to tackle the heat-island phenomenon for Tokyo's Shibuya ward two years ago, Kojima helped draw up legislation requiring new buildings bigger than 300 square meters at ground level to plant gardens on a fifth of that surface.

That mandate is the strictest in the country, and has paid off so visibly that even the Tokyo city government is reconsidering its own regulations in the hope of emulating Shibuya's success.

Lately, Kojima says, he even gets phone calls from embassies inquiring about the project.

It's the law

Tokyo passed its own law in April 2001 stipulating that new buildings with a roof area of more than 1,000 square meters must plant greenery on 20 percent of the surface.

To get around the costly task, however, many builders have slanted their roofs because the guideline applies only to flat surfaces.

Under its plan, the capital hopes to add 1,200 ha of greenery on its rooftops over 15 years. At the pace it's going now, that could take up to 120 years.

Shibuya, one of Tokyo's 23 wards, is way ahead of schedule.

When it first started, the ward, with a population of about 200,000, set a goal of increasing its total green surface to 23 percent from the current 21.1 percent over 20 years.

In the six months since the guidelines became legally binding last October, it reached the halfway point, adding more than 7,000 square meters of greenery on rooftops.

"We'll have to reset our targets now, since our rooftops are being planted at such a high speed," Kojima says.

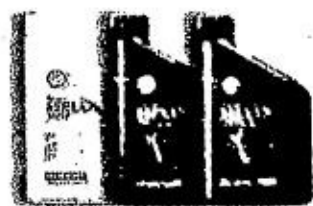
"Rooftop gardening is the sort of thing anyone can do if they put their minds to it," Kojima adds.

"It really doesn't have to cost that much money," Kojima, a nature-lover who years ago bought a patch of forest to prevent it from landing in the hands of golf-course developers, said his goal was to cover half of Shibuya with greenery, while setting a good example so others would follow. Reuters



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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

LIKE IPPS

Gov't readies contracts for power coops

BAGUIO CITY—The government is preparing to deal out financially deficient rural electric cooperatives (RECs) to private investors in what sounds like a repeat of the controversial independent power producer (IPP) contracts that are now undergoing review.

But Edgardo Bangit, National Electrification Administration's director for foreign-assisted projects, said the NEA's investment management contracts (IMC) would actually save rural power distributors that are on the verge of collapse.

He said the NEA is expecting to bid out five rural electric cooperatives to "risk capitalists" by December this year or early January in 2003. The NEA assumes control over beleaguered RECs, to bail them out of operational debts.

Up for bidding are the Albay Electric Cooperative, which is directly under NEA's control, three RECs in Nueva Ecija and the Pampanga II Electric Cooperative.

"The (RECs) have always been under-financed... There have been many unsolicited (notices of interest from private investors), but they may not come up to our standards. (NEA) wants to allow private capital to assume the management of these (distressed RECs) for only a short duration, and only with the consent of their consumer-members," Bangit said.

"We will, of course, offer small commercial concessions to the (investors) because they have to earn back their investments. But the Albay cooperative members will continue as owners of the utility," he said.

However, members of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (Philreca) may not look kindly on the IPP-like program.

Gerardo Verzosa, general manager of the Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco), said RECs are still alarmed by a Malacañang-led initiative to package RECs for investments, and their eventual buyout, in order to make the provincial power system efficient.

Philreca is not officially involved with the REC investment program pending the NEA's final review of the IMC provisions, Bangit said.

He presented the IMC program to a Beneco forum here on Saturday.

Like the IPP investors may need to raise up to P150 million to rehabilitate and expand these distressed RECs, Bangit said.

The original IPP contracts, signed during the term of former President Fi-

del Ramos, leased out state-owned power generation facilities like the Bina hydroelectric plant in Benguet.

Each IPP contract carried a clause that obliged the Napocor to buy the electricity these plants generate regardless of price or need. The IPPs have been blamed for the increasing purchased power adjustment (PPA) cost in every consumer bills.

Bangit stressed, however, that the IMC program's similarities with the IPP were superficial.

He said the IMC contracts would not benefit healthy power cooperatives because the rehabilitation requirements for a viable REC would be small.

NEA had listed eight "fiscally unsound" RECs, but had trimmed the list down to only five RECs for IMC bidding at the end of the year. Vincent Cabreja, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rains.

SOURCE: PAGASA

		HI 33°	LO 25°
Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	LO 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 22°	LO 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	LO 26°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	LO 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	LO 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	LO 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 31°	LO 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	LO 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 30°	LO 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30°	LO 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	LO 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 31°	LO 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	LO 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	LO 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	LO 22°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	LO 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/07/02

New electric charge in Naga rejected

NAGA CITY—The general assembly of a power cooperative here has ordered the management to refrain from imposing an additional charge of P0.12 per kilowatt-hour for a ten-month period after the latter claimed it lost P13 million due to the double deduction of the purchased power adjustment.

In a resolution filed by the president of a consumers group during the July 27 general assembly of Camarines Sur Electric Cooperative (Casureco II), the member-consumers unanimously approved that the management, instead of collecting from them the additional charge to recoup the alleged losses, should impose austerity measures and avoid excessive spending.

Sandy Hubilla, president of the Pili Public Utilities Consumers Inc. and author of the resolution, also included an order to the Casureco II management to recall the petition for additional charge from the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Hubilla said the Commission on Audit has found the management of Casureco II to have spent P9.9 million of unrelated expenses that the National Electrification Administration guidelines do not allow. The COA audit was conducted in 2001 to determine the rate that Casureco II charges its consumers. Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hydro power plant to displace 9,540 lumad

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Thousands of lumad (indigenous peoples) will be displaced from their ancestral lands inside the ethnographic regions of Central Mindanao and North-Western Mindanao, if the government-proposed Pulangi hydroelectric power plant project pushes through.

Edtami Mansayangan, National Commission for the Indigenous People commissioner for Central Mindanao, said the proposed Pulangi Plant 5 alone will displace some 9,540 lumad, as it will submerge in water some 78,000 hectares of lumad-inhabited land.

In a consultation conducted in Kibawi, Bukidnon on July 26, lumad leaders living along the Pulangi River in the Bukidnon-Arakan area expressed their opposition to the project.

One of the lumad organizations opposing the projects is the Apo Sandawa Lumadnong Panaghuisa Council based in North Cotabato, Mansayangan said.

The plant will directly hit 44,000 hectares of land, some of which still are being applied for certificates of ancestral domain title and certificates of ancestral domain claim. Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau



KIKO IN PAMPANGA

Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan (center) inspects the sandbagging operations in Minalin, Pampanga after two strong typhoons hit the area recently causing massive flooding and destruction of properties in the areas and other neighboring provinces. Pangilinan, who traces his roots in Pampanga, vowed to help rehabilitate the area by allocating funds for the refurbishing of its flood control system. Also in photo are (left to right) Minalin Mayor Edgardo Flores, Minalin Vice Mayor Arturo Naguit and Sto. Tomas Mayor Lucas Arceo (extreme right) and members of the local council.

DoE drops plans for Negros coal-fired plant

BACOLOD CITY—The Department of Energy (DoE) is no longer interested in the proposed coal-fired power plant in Pulupandan, Negros Occidental, which has been strongly opposed by environmentalist groups.

"The (DoE) has already abandoned any talks, plans, whatever you call it to promote the coal-fired project in Pulupandan so let's put it to rest," said Energy Undersecretary

Cyril del Callar yesterday.

Del Callar made this assurance during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) initiated by the environment group, Greenpeace.

The MOU, which called for the development of sustainable energy alternatives, was signed on board the MV Arctic Sunrise of Greenpeace, which was docked at a private wharf in Bacolod.

The other signatories were Gov.

Joseph Maranon and Conrado Navarro of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

In his speech, Del Callar said the department has to make use of renewable energy as an alternative to coal-fired power plants.

This include the use of geothermal power plants, which he said, have been proven a "good clean source of renewable energy." Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Boracay electricity boosted with new transmission line

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Electricity supply on Boracay Island is expected to get a much needed boost when the construction of a transmission line from the Aklan mainland is completed this September.

Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores said the 23-kilometer transmission line from Nabas town to Barangay Catigan in Malay town, where the world-famous island resort belongs, will be operational a month ahead of its scheduled completion in October as earlier announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The 69-kilovolt transmission line, which costs P46 million, will help stabilize the power supply of the island that has been experiencing daily brownouts and

power fluctuations for the past years.

"This will improve the distribution of electricity to Boracay," Miraflores told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The construction of the transmission line was among the measures taken to address the province's power crisis that has threatened the operations of Boracay, the country's prime tourist destination.

The crisis reached its peak in March when a three-day blackout hit the province after the National Power Corp. cut off electricity to the Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco) for failing to settle its debts reaching P109 million.

The blackout, which started on March 18, affected Aklan's 17 towns, including Boracay, and two Antique towns.

Power was restored on March 20 when a three-member management

team of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) took over the operations of the cooperative.

The crisis prompted a congressional inquiry to look into alleged mismanagement of and irregularities in Akelco.

Akelco has reorganized its board of directors and has reduced its financial obligations.

Enrico Bucoy, Akelco general manager, said the cooperative's liabilities to Napocor dropped from P135 million last April to P108 million as of June 30.

Despite the NEA takeover and the reorganization of Akelco, the power problems of Boracay continued.

Karen Reina, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc., said daily brownouts lasting an average of two hours and a half persisted.

Media group condemns maltreatment of Inquirer man

BUTUAN CITY—A media group here condemned the maltreatment of INQUIRER correspondent Franklin Caliguid by two bodyguards of Mayor Daisy Plaza during a press conference on Aug. 2.

In a statement signed by at least 50 members of tri-media outlets, the Professional Responsible and Organized Media (Pro Media) in the Caraga Region condemned Mayor Plaza's bodyguards' "attempt to silence her critics and consider it indicative of her administration's policy for the local media to be submissive to the leadership's whims and caprices." The bodyguards dragged Caliguid out of the mayor's

conference room.

The group added that the guards' move was an insult to Butuan City and the Caraga media, which is tantamount to harassment on the press critical of her administration as he (Caliguid) went there not to make trouble but to gather news materials for the newspapers he is representing.

Caliguid, who is also the news editor of The Mindanao Newswatch, which is known to be critical of her administration, said he was personally invited by NBI Assistant Director Reynaldo Esmeralda to the press conference held at the mayor's office.

The press conference was supposed

to shed light on the NBI's investigation on the rice smuggling case here. The press conference was co-sponsored by the City Mayor's Office.

Caliguid was already inside the conference room when shortly before the activity started he was called outside by Nestor Plaza and Nestor Uygiuco, two of the mayor's bodyguards, and was told to leave.

Not minding the bodyguards' warning, Caliguid went back inside, thinking it was the NBI who invited him.

The two bodyguards later entered the room and dragged him out of the conference room.

When asked, the bodyguards said it

was the mayor and Merlin Samonte, the city government's information officer, who ordered him out of the conference room.

Caliguid said he wanted to attend the press conference to get the mayor's side after reports surfaced implicating her to the rice smuggling.

"The fact that she did not want me there means she is hiding something," Caliguid, who is set to file criminal and civil charges against the mayor and her two bodyguards, said.

PRO Media is set to elevate the matter to the National Press Club. Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ROUNDUP

Bandits kill farmers

DAVAO CITY—Marijuana-planting bandits in Kiblawan, Davao del Sur, have started to vent their ire on locals, whom they suspected of being government tippers, according to Sr. Supt. Samuel Navaja, Davao del Sur police director. A report reaching the regional police office here said that the first of those who was killed was a farmer from Barangay Kimlawis. Bobby Villacorder, 23, was reportedly on his way home at around 5 p.m. on Wednesday when he was shot.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Donated' medicines seized

DAVAO CITY—The Bureau of Customs here has confiscated P6 million worth of illegally imported medicines and hospital accessories. The contraband sent from Germany was consigned to a city hall employee assigned with the National Bureau of Investigation office here. But Virginia Bernardo told Customs agents that the seized items were actually donations but she failed to produce any document. BOC officials said charging Bernardo would be difficult because she denied knowledge that illegal medicines would be sent to her. What she knew, BOC officials said, was that a balikbayan box full of donations from Germany would be arriving.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bacolod bomb scare

BACOLOD CITY—A bomb scare caused hundreds of Negros Occidental government employees at the Old Capitol and Provincial Administration Center in Bacolod City to flee from their offices on Wednesday. Police said the threat to "make the Capitol explode" was made by a male caller who called the Governor's Office on Wednesday morning. Police thoroughly checked the building but found no explosive, prompting them to declare that the bomb scare was the handiwork of a prankster.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

State of calamity

ILAGAN, Isabela—The provincial board declared Isabela under a state of calamity after agriculture officials reported that the province lost P654 million worth of crops from the drought. Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. said the declaration would allow the provincial government to use its P20-million calamity fund to help the affected farmers. Earlier, the provincial boards of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya also declared their respective provinces under a state of calamity due to the drought's effect.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bridge opened

BINALONAN, Pangasinan—Speaker Jose de Venecia and Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong opened on Friday the P112-million Aloragat Bridge, a vital link to Northern Luzon and the Cordillera. The 210-meter long, seven-span bridge was financed through a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. The old bridge collapsed on Sept. 18, 1998 because of heavy floods spawned by Typhoon Gading. Datumanong and De Venecia also opened the Sapang Bridge in Manaoag, the Man-at Highway in San Carlos City and the Mabini-Agno highway.

Yolanda Fuentes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Huge turtle found

BULACAN, Bulacan—A three-foot long green sea turtle, believed to have come from the waters of Palawan, was recovered by fishermen from a river in Barangay Binuangan in Obando on Monday. Armando Guevarra, 47, of Barangay Tibig here, said he and his companions thought they caught a huge volume of fish when they pulled up their net. They were surprised to see the turtle, which the regional Department of Environment and Natural Resources said weighed about 150 kilograms. The turtle was taken to the rescue center of the DENR's Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau office in Quezon City after it showed signs of weakness.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Apayao's Mabaka tribe's culture of cooperation

By Maurice Malanes
Conner, Apayao

ONE Friday afternoon in July, 20 sturdy men from the other side of Conner, Apayao, arrived in Barangay Malama. By next morning, they were ready to embark on their mission for that day—to bring home seven bags of cement apart from kitchen needs such as lard, salt and sugar.

The men, who belong to the Mabaka tribe (a sub-group of the Isneg), had to divide each bag of cement into half so 14 men would carry the cement on their shoulders besides other stuff in their rattan backpacks.

The men had to climb their way home to Buneg, the farthest sitio (sub-village)



MABAKA women carry rocks to contribute to a village-initiated project in Conner, Apayao

MAURICE MALANES

of Barangay Nabuangan, a remote barangay of Conner.

Buneg is an eight- to nine-hour uphill and downhill trek southwest of the highway in Malama or a good 36 kilometers away.

This correspondent and another journalist, who went with the Mabaka folk, were amazed at how they were as agile and durable as World Cup soccer players and weightlifters.

But more amazing was how we saw the Mabaka's culture of cooperation at work. The cement that they hauled was just among the several other materials they had to carry on their backs for a community-initiated project—a 7.5-kilowatt micro-hydro power facility, which was more than halfway done in early July.

Cooperation

Besides their agility and stamina, the Mabaka folk's practice of *innabuyog* (which other Filipinos call *bayanihan*) helped them achieve what may seem impossible to do.

Through self-help, they hauled last summer a 400-kg turbine and other heavy equipment for their power project.

To carry the turbine, eight men at a given time had to carry the machine, which was tied to a bamboo pole. Other men were on standby to relieve anyone who got tired even after a few meters.

Aside from the hauling, all able-bodied members of the 36 families of Buneg helped in other activities for the project. Women and children hauled sand and stones from a river and helped dig a diversion canal from a creek nearby.

Diverted water will soon fill up a meter-wide, three-meter high and 10-meter long water-impounding basin. From the impounding basin, a 10-inch diameter penstock (a big pipe) will be attached to convey water to a powerhouse more than 100

meters below.

Since they also have to farm, the Mabaka men divided themselves into three groups of 13. Each group works for two days a week at the project so members can also plough and plant their rice fields during the rest of the week.

They have designated every Sunday for all of them, including the women and children, to work on the project. One recent Sunday, most of the Mabaka folk came to help, with some women balancing two to three stones on their heads; and children, barely on their teens, also carrying stones on their shoulders.

They hauled the stones from a river below their community settlement and walked uphill to bring these to the project site almost a kilometer away.

The men, on the other hand, used the stones to build a rip-rap wall within the water-impounding basin. All of them really worked hard that Sunday and their only mid-morning break was when the women and men huddled at a corner to chew betel nut, exchange folk humor and share laughter.

Barring any disturbances such as bad weather, the Mabaka folk sought to finish the project early this month.

Cheaper than kerosene

Once it operates, the micro-hydropower project will light up the 36 households of Buneg and free the villagers from kerosene expense.

Through their Buneg Mabaka Tribal Organization (BMTO), the indigenous folk have agreed that each household will have two fluorescent bulbs (10 watts each) and one outlet for small appliances. For maintenance, each household pays P6 per bulb or P12 monthly.

But a household can opt to install more bulbs, and pay another P6 per additional bulb.

In contrast, a Buneg household spends P18 per liter of kerosene a week or P72 monthly.

Are they eager to buy television sets and watch those mid-day variety shows and early evening soap operas?

"Ay madimi TV; isturbo lang panagadal ti ubbing (We don't like TV; it will

only discourage our children from studying their school lessons)," says Marcela Dalingay, 47, a mother of 11.

For Judalyn Dalingay, 33-year-old mother of five, a small transistor radio will suffice. "We need transistor radios to monitor news and weather updates," she says.

What about refrigerators? "We don't need refrigerators here because every food we eat is fresh," says former barangay councilor Namina Balnaw.

Mabaka women's wish

What Mabaka women also wish for is a rice mill, which, they hope, will free them from the tedious task of pounding rice.

If freed from pounding rice, mothers, who usually do the pounding, can do other tasks like catching fish from the river, taking better care of their children and having more time to help their husbands in the farm, says Maria Gunayen, 39, a mother of three.

Setting up a rice mill is the second-phase of the micro-hydro power project. The rice mill will not be operated by the current generated by the micro-hydro but from the same mechanical force of the water from the penstock that operates the turbine.

All that is needed to operate the rice mill is a fan belt attached to the turbine, says Frank Taguba, a mechanical engineer from the non-government Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (Sibat), who is supervising the project.

After having seen a Catholic Church-supervised micro-hydro power project in remote Barangay Dulao in Malibcong, Abra, Buneg residents who trace their roots to Malibcong, sought out Sibat, which a Catholic missionary in Abra referred to the residents. Sibat specializes in small "appropriate technology" for remote villages.

Sibat, in turn, sought out some funding from the United Nations Development Program for the Buneg micro-hydro power project.

Buneg elders and leaders began exploring the project in 1997. "At some point, some of us almost gave up because of the difficulty of having to haul on our shoulders heavy materials," says BMTO chair Pablo Agagen. "But we were determined



EVEN Mabaka children do their part for their community

MAURICE MALANES

(to pursue the project). Our source of strength was our own patience and our innabuyog (culture of cooperation)."

Dreams, hopes

Although the project has yet to be completed, Buneg residents have already laid out some plans.

One of these is setting up a "Botika sa Barangay (village drugstore)", where they can stock medicines for common ailments. Initial capital for the drugstore will come from the maintenance fees that each household pays monthly for the micro-hydro power facility.

The *botika* is the Mabaka folk's self-reliant way of filling up what government has failed to provide—basic health services.

Until now, the newly-assigned midwife in Buneg rarely visits the place. The residents, thus, have to fend for themselves.

But whatever government fails to provide, the Mabaka people fill this up with a big dose of their own culture of cooperation. They, for example, would always volunteer to carry in a hammock fastened to a bamboo pole a member of their community who needs to be taken to the hospital.

With this same practice of cooperation, they seek to venture on another project after they set up the micro-hydro power facility—expand their existing rice paddies, says farmer Benigno Balani.

This rice-farm expansion project will ensure that every family has enough rice on its table to go with the *gadew, palileng* (both freshwater fish), eels, meat of wild boar and deer, *pako* (edible fern), *dong-ilyay* and *anti* (both edible weeds), and other wild vegetables that abound with in their environs.

The changing identities of Baguio Tsinoys

By Mark Thomas Manalang
Baguio City

MAJOR cities in the United States and other parts of the world host several Chinatowns. Manila has its Binondo (Ongpin to some) where Chinese migrants choose to reside and hold business.

But it would be interesting to note that the Chinese-Filipino community, commonly known as the Tsinoys, does not have a so-called Chinatown in Baguio.

Prof. Anavic Bagamaspad, director for student affairs of the University of the Philippines College Baguio, said this is because Tsinoys have been integrated into Baguio's society, not only as a separate identity but also as part of the Cordilleran community.

As a minority group, the local Tsinoys have established their identities in the community in spite of their foreign roots. They have lived as true Filipinos.

Bagamaspad completed her first study of the Baguio Chinese 20 years ago. In a professorial chair lecture delivered last month, Bagamaspad explained the changing identities of the Baguio Chinese and their integration into the local community.

Her study focused on ethnicity and identities of indigenous and alien minority groups. This, she pointed out, is due to the confluence of historical experiences and new forces, such as globalization, that impinge upon the ethnicity and identities of peoples.

She said at different historical periods, the Chinese displayed different types of integration.

Tsinoy origin

Bagamaspad said the Baguio Chinese came from the coastal South China, specifically the provinces of Fujian and Guangdong (known as Canton). The distinction between these provinces is essential, not only as reference, but also to distinguish between natives of Guangdong and Fujian.

Migration by the Chinese can

be traced to the end of the tumultuous reign of the Qing Dynasty. Economic factors were a primary reason, but political situations and international economic development also favored large-scale international migration.

Bagamaspad identified four patterns of Chinese migration in the past 200 years as applied to the Baguio Chinese.

The first pattern was the coming of the Hua shang, also known as the sangley. The sangley came from Fujian where Amoy was the chief port and where "seng-li" meant trader, said Bagamaspad. They were merchants who traded with Filipinos in the coastal towns of Pangasinan, La Union and Ilocos. Also among this group were artisans, including miners and other skilled workers.

Stories of the sangley are part of the oral tradition of the people of Benguet, Bagamaspad said.

She said Chinese porcelain jars found in native households in remote areas in Northern Luzon are proof of relations that date back to the 16th century.

The second wave was the arrival of the Hua Gong or coolies in the Philippines up to the 1920s. The coolies are mostly laborers and farmers who do manual labor in the country.

The first known coolies came to Benguet in July 1856. They were brought to Mankayan by Tomas Balbas, who formed the mining company Sociedad Minero Metalurgica Cantabro-Filipinas de Mankayan.

The coolies also played an important role in the construction of the Benguet Road (now known as Kennon Road) in 1901. Most of these coolies served in Ameri-



THE CHINESE-Filipino community is an integral part of Baguio City.

can businesses as carpenters, cooks and gardeners. They later put up their own businesses in Baguio and contributed to the development of the city.

The Hua Quiao or overseas Chinese came to the country in the 1920s. These were the nationalistic Chinese "who had political, legal and ideological content," Bagamaspad said.

"The importance of the Hua quiao's remittances to their families as well as to nationalist causes made the Republican government declare that the Hua quiao owed their allegiance to China," she said.

During World War II, the patriotism of the Hua quiao was not lacking, and anti-Japanese resistance swept Baguio. Nationalist feelings against the Japanese aggression in the Philippines was again reinforced, Bagamaspad said. "This time the Chinese was fighting for his adopted homeland."

Bagamaspad said the last pattern marked the coming of the Hua yi, people with Chinese descent. The

Hua yi were Chinese born in countries of destination, migrated or re-migrated to another country like Western Europe, North America and Australia. They were mainly composed of well-educated professionals escaping discriminatory policies of other governments.

Bagamaspad said immigration was mainly done to have better opportunities for the younger generation.

She said today's generation of ethnic Chinese exhibits ethnic or cultural identity that focuses on cultural persistence and distinctiveness.

This degree of "Chineseness" earned the expression "Tsinoy," which was unique during the 1970s until the present.

Young Tsinoys

Bagamaspad said the degree of orientation of the fourth generation Tsinoys has made them "more Filipino than Chinese."

Older generations regard them as "not Chinese enough." This is true, she said, especially among those born in Baguio and who regard

themselves more often as Filipinos.

Bagamaspad also said the present generation of Baguio Chinese shows dual or multiple identities because of the norms of the society and environment they are in.

Using the framework of Chinese researcher Wang Gung Wu, Bagamaspad identified the norms that contribute to the present generation's identities as physical, political, economic and cultural.

Physical norms, according to Bagamaspad, are defined by endogamous marriages. This phenomenon breeds biological and ideological effects such as physical characteristics (fair skin and *singkit* or chinky-eyed, for example), values on blood and ancestry, and narrow attitudes toward Chinese distinctiveness and exclusivity, if not racial superiority.

Childhood training and personal circumstances also affect the formation of Chinese identity. The study's informants from mixed marriages who were raised by Chinese relatives or parents became more acquainted with the Chinese way of life. In spite of this, physical norms contribute largely to Chinese ethnic identity.

Political loyalty

Bagamaspad said political norms refer to ideas of political loyalty to the state, to commitment and participation in nation building, and on the ideals of democratic rights. Among the young Chinese of Baguio, ancestry or birth and loyalty to either Taiwan or the People's Republic of China are a "non-issue."

"There is no doubt that among the young Chinese of Baguio, their political loyalty is to the Philippines... Some express love for country, concern for the political conditions, especially during the period of Edsa II," Bagamaspad said.

She said one informant in the study "expressed nationalist idealism" by saying Chinese capital should be reinvested in the Philippines and not in other countries.

"Quite a number of the informants have gone to the People's Republic of China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The sense of connecting with a cultural source pervades but not that of connecting to a nation of which one owes allegiance."

Bagamaspad pointed out that political norms are a cause of the strengthening of the Baguio Chinese's national identity.

The present generation is also affected by economic norms in their families. These refer to modern rational standards of behavior related to national economy and rules regarding each group's pursuit of livelihood and profit.

The most commonly mentioned personal characteristic considered Chinese is the value attached to money. Even at a young age, children were taught to save money, given responsibilities in the family business, and were taught to be hardworking and patient in their endeavors, Bagamaspad said.

"As children, they were taught to save money for things they wanted to buy. They were taught to distinguish between needs and wants and learned how to be sparing (*matipid, huwag maluho*)," she said.

Values such as enduring customer relations, trust and valuing personal reputation are also instilled and practiced. In this case, middle class identity is established through these norms.

Bagamaspad said another factor contributing to multiple identities of the Chinese Filipino youth is their cultural norms. Mostly Chinese culture and traditions are taught at a young age.

Children learn about norms on birth, marriage, death, and family ties. Learning the Chinese written language and speaking Mandarin, Fookien or Cantonese is also so important, she said.

Chinese traditional practices are also observed in their families. Holidays such as Father's or Mother's Day, Christmas and New Year are celebrated "the Chinese way."

'Look for a person with heart of gold'

From page A1

woman who was always there to help and support me will never come back."

In an article published in the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonoth on Aug. 5, Kakun said it was only when she heard about the explosion in the Satsufa Moshav bus stop that she realized why Ruga, 39, was still not in her house at 9 a.m.

Cunanan's 17-year-old daughter Gladys lamented her mother's death. "My mother was looking forward to her vacation as she wanted to take care of my debut, a simple and private affair with the family, on March 1, 2003, because she missed seeing

me grow up so fast," Gladys said. Her debut was the subject of their last phone conversation, on Tuesday last week, she said.

In Minalin, Pampanga, town officials are set to declare Cunanan a "modern day heroine."

Newspaper report

While Kakun mourned the death of her caregiver, Miriam Elkavetz, who lived across the house, "did not stop crying," according to the Israeli newspaper report.

"She left her children behind to come and care for old people. All she wanted is to help us... We find it hard to accept this blow," Elkavetz was quoted as saying in the article by

Eltan Glickman.

Since Monday, Cunanan's sisters, brothers and cousins had tried to keep the news from her parents, Pablo Sr. and Inez, both of whom are in poor health.

Minalin Mayor Edgar Flores said the mother turned hysterical on learning of the death of her daughter.

"Why did this have to happen to my good daughter?" the mother said. The father broke down in tears. Minutes later, he was taken to the hospital after experiencing chest pain.

"It was really very sad," Flores said. They cannot accept it," Flores said.

Gladys was only 12 years old when her mother left for Israel to work as a caregiver. In the last five years, she saw

her mother only twice.

In the past several months, Gladys said, her mother called or texted them every day to tell them how much she missed and loved them. Gladys said she would also text them to remind them to do well in school.

"We texted every day. But the last time I was able to talk to her was Tuesday last week and she told me about her plan to come home on my 18th birthday. Mama said she wanted me to finish my studies and soon after my graduation, she would return home and stay for good so we will all be together," said Gladys, holding back tears.

Her brother Neil, who is with their father in Cebu, was not told of his

mother's fate. "He was so excited when I told him he should come to Manila because Mama was coming home and we will meet her at the airport. I couldn't make myself tell him the truth," Gladys said.

Victims' benefits

Gladys met with Foreign Secretary Blas Ople yesterday. During the meeting, Ople telephoned Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to find out the benefits Cunanan's family would receive. Sto. Tomas said the Israeli government would provide P1 million to Cunanan's family and another P1 million to Ruga's family.

The P1 million in insurance benefits was on top of the expenses that the Israeli government would shoulder for the transports of the victims' remains.

Upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration would take over, receive and transport the two bodies and take care of the burial, Sto. Tomas said.

Owva will also give each family P50,000 in death benefits.

Delmer Cruz, Owva deputy administrator, said that the victims' remains are still being embalmed in an Israeli mortuary and would be ready for repatriation on Friday, at the latest.

"We have been coordinating with our welfare office in Israel, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the labor attaché and we have been told about this schedule," Cruz told the Inquirer.

Mayor Flores said the town government's citation was "our way

of showing our appreciation (of) h life of courage." Cunanan made "brave act" by working in a land to by conflict, he said.

Flores said Minalin had sent more than a hundred residents, most women, to work as caregivers in rael in recent years. Cunanan had many cousins in Israel. One was said to have helped her land a job in the country.

DFA advisory

Yesterday, the DFA issued an advisory to embassies all over the world to "observe greatest care and prudence" for the safety of Filipinos abroad.

"I issued an advisory to all Filipino communities and embassies all over the world to observe greatest care and prudence and not to get too much exposed to the risk of travel incidents involving bombings of congested areas, of indiscriminate firing. These are the standing orders to Filipinos abroad," Ople said.

In the House, the chair of the foreign relations committee yesterday said the government should force the evacuation of Filipinos in Israel to prevent more Filipino casualties war.

"It is understandable why Oye seas Filipino Workers want to remain in Israel despite the worsening peace and order condition. They want to earn but the Philippine government has the moral obligation to ensure their safety," said Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada. With report from Norman Bordadora, Juke Javellana; Tonette Orejas, PI Central Luzon Desk; Reuters

'I thought I was to be congratulated'

From page A1

the mistake "was an injustice for Acas. What will happen to other small people who gather enough courage to expose wrongdoings in government?"

In a letter addressed to Malacañang, Wycoco denied that Ramirez had been presented as a suspect.

"While we were interviewing Ramirez... President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo decided to pass by the NBI to follow-up on the progress of our investigation," Wycoco wrote.

"Consequently, she decided to meet Ramirez but the President did not categorically announce whether Ramirez was a suspect or not," he added.

But the President did imply that the cashier was one.

While Ramirez was being presented before TV cameras, the President said in Filipino: "The law requires that transactions of P4 million and above should be reported (to the Anti-Money Laundering Council). The bank manager (presented as a suspect the previous day) did not report it. Now, the cashier."

In a press briefing yesterday, an emotional Ramirez said: "I haven't slept for the past few nights. I thought I was going to be congratulated but I ended up getting accused."

"My older sister nearly had a heart attack (when she heard the news)," she added.

Her husband Feliciano, a computer firm sales official, said his family was too ashamed to go out of the house and said his clients had also distanced themselves from him.

"I call on the President... They should verify their information first," Ramirez said.

Friday's ordeal

NBI agents invited Ramirez for questioning Friday. Landbank assistant vice president Carmencita Bayot accompanied Ramirez that morning to the bank's head office, where they met the NBI agents.

"The NBI agents told (Bayot and a union lawyer) that they need not go to the (bureau) headquarters because Acas was only going to be interviewed," Pineda said.

Ramirez arrived at the NBI before noon and had lunch before her interview began past 2 p.m. "I was being interviewed when I noticed a commotion. I heard that President (Macapagal)-Arroyo had arrived," Ramirez said.

She said her interview continued until somebody came in and said she was being called.

"I didn't know that I was going to be presented (as a suspect). I even sat in front of the President. I thought she was going to congratulate me for exposing the anomaly," Ramirez said.

But then the cashier was told to stand up and stand behind the President. It was then that Ms Macapagal presented her as a suspect.

"I had a mental blackout. I just cried and cried after that," Ramirez said.

In his regular briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye studiously avoided comment on the latest "kuryente"—a false report in journalistic parlance—to strike the presidency in recent weeks.

"We can give you a copy of the statement of Director Wycoco," Bunye said twice in response to questions that included whether President Macapagal will apologize to Ramirez.

String of mistakes

Another Palace official said it was also Wycoco who tipped off the President while they were in Sarangani on July 26 that alleged Pentagon gang leader Faizal Marohombas was already in the custody of government agents.

Ms Macapagal immediately announced the news, but the information was later proved wrong.

While in Sarangani, the President also announced that another bandit leader, Commander Tropical of the Abu Sofia group, was killed in an encounter the previous day.

Days later, a nongovernment group based in Mindanao claimed that the real Commander Tropical was still alive.

"In the case of Commander Tropical, it was fed by officials of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines)," the Palace official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

"There's eagerness among officials to present positive news to the President, the official conceded.

"It's a problem. Some people directly report to the President and in that situation, there is no way to immediately counter-check information they provide," the official said.

The official said that Bunye was supposed to report to the President's "communications group" certain remedial measures to spare Ms Macapagal from similar cases in the future.

One such measure is that officials should first report to their Cabinet secretaries, who in turn will verify information before passing it on to the President.

"These Cabinet secretaries will make sure the information is correct because it will be their call when they pass it to the President," the official said.

The series of high-profile mistakes has already cost a director in the presidential appointments office his job.

Director Virgilio Salviejo was sacked on July 31, the same day that a wrong advisory was released saying Marohombas was to be presented to Ms Macapagal at the NBI.

Wycoco defended the NBI's handling of Ramirez, saying he had never said she was a suspect. He said the agency would not only not apologize, but was studying filing charges against her.

"Nowhere did we say that she was a suspect or that she was involved in the tax scam," Wycoco said at a press briefing.

"There is nothing to apologize for. We did not mention her as a suspect. I don't know why she felt like a suspect," he added.

He said the NBI invited Ramirez because

Landbank Binangonan branch manager Artemio San Juan had implicated her in the P203-million tax scam.

In a letter he sent to Malacañang yesterday, Wycoco said the cashier's exposé "triggered the special audit resulting (in) the discovery of the multimillion-peso fraud at the Binangonan branch," but there were "other reasons" that cast doubt on Ramirez's innocence.

He said San Juan claimed that Ramirez should be faulted for opening the "Bonsalagen account," since she "had a hand in the approval of the opening of the account."

Wycoco noted that Ramirez was already the branch cashier when most of the multimillion-peso deposits in the four fraudulent accounts were made.

He also added that Ramirez was the "lone Binangonan branch officer" who did not appear

for questioning on July 30.

Wycoco did not explain, however, why Ramirez was presented to the public when she was still being interviewed.

Landbank president Margarito Teves came out in support of Ramirez.

"Personally, I don't think she's involved because she was the one who tipped us about the scam. As a cashier, she would be required to sign some documents. Still, everybody who was involved in the process related to the P203-million case including Ramirez continues to be a suspect," Teves added.

He said Ramirez was traumatized with Friday's ordeal and was reluctant to continue cooperating with the NBI.

Ramirez said an NBI official, Elfren Meneses, went to see her on Monday to apologize. With reports from Clarissa Batino, Christine Gaylican, AFP

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Gross Vehicle Weight	kg 2,750	2,205
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Type	4-in line, diesel	4-in line, diesel
DISPLACEMENT	2,665	2,477
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Joma: So it's all-out war

From page A1

Front (a political umbrella that includes the CPP) is not at all intimidated," Sison said.

He called on legal allies of the communists to escalate their mass protests and urged insurgents to organize more underground groups to enable "the absorption of the legal forces" into the rebel movement.

Sison also called on Moro separatist groups, like the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), to simultaneously launch attacks on the government.

"All types of alliances are being strengthened to isolate and remove the Macapagal ruling clique from power," he said.

Sison blasted Ms Macapagal for harboring an illusion that by running a "banana republic" for the United States and by projecting a

"strong republic" she could ensure her election in 2004.

On the contrary, according to Sison, "instead of being able to remain President beyond 2004, (Ms Macapagal) is whipping up the demand and paving the way for a strongman."

"Generals Angelo Reyes and Panfilo Lacson are reportedly already angling for this role," Sison said.

He warned that the government's all-out war would embolden the military, police and paramilitary forces to commit human rights violations on a wider scale than ever before.

Mad dog

The party-list group Bayan Muna said the President was like a mad dog ready to bite people without distinction.

"Experience shows that the brutal and abusive military makes no distinction between armed revolutionary groups and legal

progressive organizations," said Robert de Castro, Bayan Muna deputy secretary general.

The declaration of war against supposed "communists" is a belated announcement as militarization in the countryside has claimed the lives of activists belonging to left-leaning legal organizations, according to De Castro.

He cited the case of human rights advocate Beng Hernandez who was killed by military agents in Arakan Valley, North Cotabato in April, as well as the 23 Bayan Muna members killed in Oriental Mindoro by the military from April 2001 to May this year.

Courage, an organization of government employees, said the President had virtually declared the entire Philippine archipelago a war zone because the NPA was operating in many provinces.

Ferdinand Gaité, Courage president, said the military offensive would justify the presence of

US troops and the building of US facilities in many parts of the country under the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement being pushed by the United States.

"She (Ms Macapagal) is conditioning the public's mind to make acceptable the unlimited access rights to be bestowed upon the US under the MLSA," Gaité said.

KMU alarmed

The Kilusang Mayo Uno expressed alarm over the President's statement that the all-out war would cover "those who terrorize factories that provide jobs," apparently a reference to militant labor groups.

"Workers are not terrorists. We are actually the one being terrorized by repressive and cruel policies being implemented by the government," KMU secretary general Elmer Labog said.

Only a president insensitive to the real situation of the poor labels workers "terrorists," he said.

"Obviously, the President does not understand that it is the meager wages and inhumane condition in the workplace which drive workers to protest," he said.

He noted that violations against workers' human rights were rampant under the Macapagal administration.

The Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR) has recorded 226 cases of violations against trade union rights.

Labog said almost half of these cases were "violent assaults on picket lines" while the rest included harassment, coercion, grave threats, illegal arrests and detention and surveillance of trade union members.

"Now, who's the real terrorist in the factories and workplaces?" he said.

KMU spokesperson Joel Maglunsod said the President angered him for lining up left-leaning workers with criminals, kidnappers, drug addicts and other law offenders.

"Only to show that she's serious in curbing criminality and terrorism, Ms Macapagal spitefully included workers among terrorists. Now she regards legitimate and democratic workers' activities like strikes and protest actions as acts of terrorism," Maglunsod said.

"We are deeply alarmed by her militarist attitude. She's becoming more and more despotic every day," he added.

Good fight

Still, Maglunsod maintained that the KMU was not intimidated by the President's warning.

"We are ready to give the President a good fight. We will be more ardent in educating and organizing workers. We will launch massive protest actions until she is ousted from the presidency," he said.

US financing war . . .

From page A1

next few days to discuss with US officials the country's "shopping list" in connection with the \$55-million aid.

He said he would also discuss with US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld a "broad range" of military and security issues.

The troops involved in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf will be re-deployed in Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, parts of the Visayas and some areas in Mindanao, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

"Now that the Abu Sayyaf problem has eased very dramatically, we can now shift our forces to the areas where communist insurgents are very strong," Golez said.

Reyes confirmed that the Armed Forces of the Philippines would include the first US-trained Light Reaction Company (LRC) among the forces to be transferred to regions where the NPA is active.

Reyes noted that the first LRC "was used extensively in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf" in Basilan and Sulu.

The LRC is composed of elite Scout Rangers and Special Forces who received training from US Green Berets the past six months.

Reyes said "cadres" from the first LRC would "re-echo the training to our own troops as part of the activities financed by the \$25 million."

Night flying

The training will involve, among other things, night flying for combat helicopters, "intelligence fusion" and other modes of instruc-

In Baguio City, the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) said human rights violations would increase, especially in communities tagged as NPA areas.

For his part, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the CPP was not at all surprised by the President's declaration of an all-out war.

"In fact the AFP's all-out counter-revolutionary war has been raging in the countryside for several months now," Rosal said.

He assailed the military for "wreaking widespread havoc on the people" in Oriental Mindoro, Laguna, Isabela, Tarlac, Pampanga and Bohol where "the revolutionary movement is widespread and strong."

The CPP spokesperson described as a "patriotic war" the kind of retaliation that the underground movement would launch the moment American troops directly intervene in the war and enter the NPA territories.

Rosal claimed that Ms Macapagal's declaration of an all-out war against the revolutionary movement "is in conformity to US instructions dictated to her by US State Secretary Colin Powell."

"The declaration is part of the 'US-designed publicity campaign that will end with Macapagal-Arroyo asking for US help in its effort to fight the NPA."

Rosal claimed that the United States and the Philippines wanted to "justify the incursion of American troops into the guerrilla zones."

He said this would take the form of "exercises," extension of military support, setting up of "infrastructures for military campaigns" and "direct participation in counter-guerrilla operations." **With a report from Desiree Calusa, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**



MILITANT groups march to the US Embassy in Manila to protest against the MLSA, toxic wastes in the former American bases and remember the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima 57 years ago. ERIK ARAZAS

'We talk, we fight. We fight, we talk'

From page A1

New People's Army (NPA) assassinated Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a former Constabulary colonel accused by human rights groups of torture and summary executions.

Because there is no ceasefire agreement between the two parties, combatants have been locked in bitter fighting even as their respective peace panels are attempting to find a political solution to the 34-year-old communist insurgency, according to Bello.

"It (the talks) is on recess still," Bello said.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, a member of the government panel, said the President's declaration of an all-out war did not change anything in the stalled peace talks.

"Basically the policy of the government and the NDF is talk and fight," Braganza said. "There is no ceasefire, so it's talking while fighting," he said.

In the House of Representatives, allies of the President expressed concern over her hardline stance.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said that while the military and police should go after communist insurgents, the government should pursue

NPA's kill soldier, 2 militiamen

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—An Army soldier and his two militiamen were gunned down by suspected New People's Army members in Maasin town in Sarangani on Monday.

The victims, Cpl. Edgar Orbito of the Light Armor Army Brigade based in Camp Awang in Cotabato City, and militiamen Moises and Arsenio Bondoli of the 19th Cagu company in Barangay Kablacan, Maasin, were taking their lunch when shot.

The victims were unarmed when attacked by nine suspected guerrillas led by a certain Commander Betod of the NPA Guerrilla Front 73. Orbito and his

sue peace negotiations with the NDF.

Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, president of the Liberal Party, which recently named the President its honorary chair, said the President's policy was "fraught with danger."

Abad said the policy could derail the peace talks, alienate the legitimate Left and encourage the military to go back to the repressive ways of the martial law years.

Useless labels

He said the President should avoid the use of "useless labels,"

fiancée, a daughter of a Maasin-based Army soldier, were scheduled to get married in rites to be officiated by Maasin Mayor Aniceto Lopez Jr. on Monday afternoon. The victims and some relatives of the bride dropped by a carinderia to take their lunch.

In Pangantucan, Bukidnon, a ranking NPA leader in North-Central Mindanao was arrested on Monday night.

The leader was identified as Zenaida Llesis, alleged secretary general of the NPA's Front 6A. Reports from Aquiles Z. Zonito, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

like calling some of her detractors communists.

"The prevailing attitude should be tolerance because the idea is to attract them to the legal struggle be it in Congress or in the streets. It is better for them to be in the halls of Congress than outside," Abad said.

He said the use of communist labels would not draw dissenters to the mainstream. "We should be very careful with these labels."

Abad said the President was naturally peeved by the Left's rejection of her and its pessimistic

regard for her governance, seeing it as a half-empty glass instead of half-filled.

"But being the President, it is expected of her to exercise full tolerance," said Abad.

Bello said that Ms Macapagal's war declaration did not mean that the peace talks had been scrapped.

Innovation

He said the government panel was in fact preparing to present to the NDF "an innovation" of Malacañang's position that the two parties focus on a single peace agreement.

"We're hoping that once this innovation is accepted, it will pave the way for the resumption of talks with the NDF," Bello said.

For his part, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada said the President should have worked hard for the resumption of the peace process instead of declaring an all-out war against the communist insurgents.

"The government should have long abandoned the all-out war as a policy in resolving the armed conflict not only between the New Peoples Army but also with other armed groups," Tañada told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He said that the strategy had failed in addressing the root causes of insurgency.

'Inhuman treatment' of Filipinos assailed

From page A1

sel. And the highest Armed Forces official in Mindanao said he was bothered by reports that some deportees had been branded like cattle by the Royal Malaysian Police.

"This is not the proper way to treat human beings, even if they are overstaying aliens," Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

"The way our countrymen were treated was an affront to our nation. Even prisoners of war get better treatment," he said.

Drilon asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to lodge a diplomatic protest with Kuala Lumpur for the "inhuman treatment" of the deportees, 60 of whom were children.

"This is a most cruel act by a supposedly friendly country," Sen. Majority Leader Loren

Legarda-Leviste said.

"Being overloaded, the rickety boat could have sunk in high seas, costing the lives of Filipinos whose only desire was to eke out a living," she added.

Legarda said the Philippines could have chartered planes or ships to fetch the deportees, if Malaysia really could not afford anything better.

Drilon urged Foreign Secretary Blas Ople to immediately undertake appropriate measures so that the incident would not be repeated.

"As civilized nations, we are obliged by international standards on human rights to respect the dignity of individuals. As a friendly neighbor, we deserve no less from the Malaysian government," he added.

Southcom probe

In Zamboanga City, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said he was disturbed by

reports that some deportees had burn marks on their skin.

"Although this is a third-person statement, we will make a comprehensive report on this. We have to determine if this allegation is true or not. And if true, then our authorities should do something to save our people there," Carolina told reporters.

"I hope that the reported markings on the Filipinos which is usually done by ranchers to their cattle are not true," Naval Forces South commander Commodore Ernesto de Leon said.

But Abraham Abduhalim, a coordinator at the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said there was no such maltreatment.

"Those (the reports of branding) were plain allegations. Besides, those who arrived yesterday were those who voluntarily surrendered

and they were allowed to go home on their own," Abduhalim said.

Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat told the INQUIRER that four or five years ago, the Malaysian government called her office to inform her that they would be deporting around 300,000 Filipinos.

Lobregat said only about 10,000 deportees had arrived in the city since.

"I am really alarmed by the sudden influx of deportees here. My apprehension is the possible growth of social problems here. We cannot accommodate everybody in this city," Lobregat said.

The deportees said Malaysian authorities were using dogs to hunt down illegal aliens and jail them if they could not produce documents.

They were rescued by a Philippine Navy boat near Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi on Aug. 1.

Pop songs top UK funeral music chart

From page A1

an increasing number of funeral services, the Co-operative Group's Funeral Service said Monday.

Bette Midler's "Wind Beneath My Wings" from the 1988 tearjerker "Beaches" topped the funeral chart in a Co-op poll conducted throughout Britain. "Perhaps mourners want to recreate the emotion of their favorite films and ensure their loved ones receive a funeral worthy of a star," said Lorinda Sheasby of Co-op, one of Britain's biggest undertakers.

Co-op said 68 percent of its undertakers reported increased use of pop songs. Weepy Hollywood film ballads are the most popular choice.

"Wind Beneath My Wings" was followed by Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On," the theme from the blockbuster film "Titanic." Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" was No. 3.

Other top 10 selections were "Candle in the Wind," sung by Elton John at the funeral of Britain's Princess Diana in 1997, and "Angels" by Robbie Williams.

There were also those who chose to bid a more whimsical farewell.

Among the more unusual requests were the Village People's "YMCA" and Wham's "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go," not to mention the Queen classic "Another One Bites the Dust."

Reuters

4 Pinoys grapple for wrestling honors

FOUR wrestlers bound for the Busan Asian Games will showcase their talents today when the Southeast Asian wrestling championships unravel at the Rizal badminton hall. Francis Villanueva, Marcelino Basas, John Esteban and Jimmy Angana, who have already secured slots in the Asiad roster, are counted upon to wrest the overall title from defending titlist Vietnam.

Marc Anthony Reyes

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SIX DIGIT

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(in exact order)
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ARCHERS RIPPING UAAP APART

La Salle speeds to its 6th straight win

By Dennis U. Eroa

LEADER La Salle used its deadly full-court, trapping defense to subdue Adamson, 74-67, and stretch its winning run to six yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	6	0
Ateneo	4	2
UST	4	2
UE	4	2
UP	2	3
Adamson	2	4
FEU	1	5
NU	0	5

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—NU vs UP (Jrs)
4 p.m.—NU vs UP (Srs)

As Adamson failed to come up with an effective press break, La Salle also frolicked in the offensive end as Mark Cardona, Adonis Sta. Maria, Carlo Sharma, Joseph Yeo, Willy Wilson and Mike Cortez scored repeatedly for a commanding 74-57 lead, from a slim 37-36 halftime lead.

La Salle, which will eye to sweep the first round of elimination against arch-rival Ateneo on Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum, even had the luxury of not scoring a single field goal in the final three minutes of play to emerge virtually unscathed.

Coach Franz Pumaren credited his team's solid defense for the victory, but lambasted the officiating which he described as "the worst" in his five years of coaching in the UAAP.

"We're always at the losing end of officiating. This is really unfortunate and I think the referee and umpires aren't fit to officiate. Remember that it's not only La Salle that is complaining. Something has got to be done," Pumaren said.

Pumaren was the second UAAP coach to hit officiating in the league.

Last Sunday, University of Santo Tomas coach Aric del Rosario and his coaching staff also lashed at referees' calls during the Tigers' 85-84 squeaker over National University.

In the first game, the La Salle-Zobel Bengals stunned the Adamson Baby Falcons, 54-52.

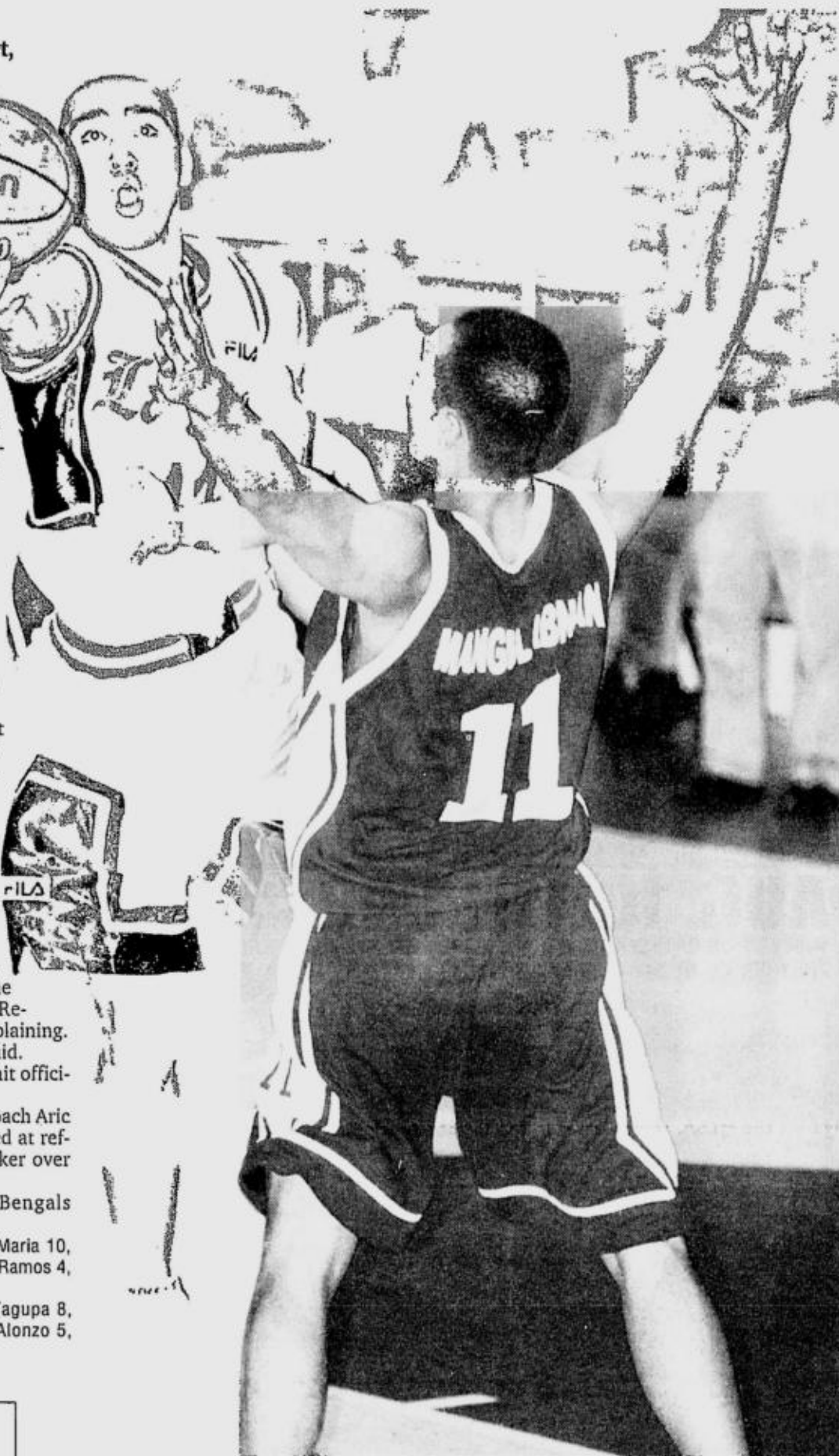
LA SALLE 74—Cardona 20, Cortez 13, Sta. Maria 10, Yeo 6, Sharma 6, Manalo 6, Cabatu 5, Wilson 4, Ramos 4, Villanueva 0, Vainio 0, Tang 0.

ADAMSON 67—Mamaclay 11, Tiongco 9, Tagupa 8, Abadia 8, Mangulabnan 8, Ferrer 6, Rolan 6, Alonzo 5, Gandarosa 3, Catabay 2, Tajonera 1.

Quarters: 22-16, 36-37, 60-50, 74-67

NCAA Today (Makati Coliseum)

2 p.m.—CSB vs UPHR (srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs San Beda (srs)



LA SALLE'S Mike Cortez scores with a layup yesterday off Adamson slotman Edilberto Mangulabnan during their UAAP game at the Makati Coliseum. The Archers won, 74-67.

ERNE SARMIENTO

Imports key Express victory over Thunder

By June Navarro

IMPORTS Jermaine Walker and Franz Pierre Louis sparked as Federal Express downed leader Batang Red Bull, 92-90, in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup last night at the Philsports Arena.

Now tied with the Coca Cola Tigers at 5-4, the Express formalized their entry to the quarterfinals and earned a chance of getting into the Magic Four with a twice-to-beat edge.

"We don't want to think about the victories and losses of the other teams. We'll just take care of business, just like what we did tonight," said FedEx coach Derek Pumaren.

Walker was explosive all night long, pumping 21 points, including four triples, while Pierre Louis battled the menac-

ing Thunder frontline for 40 minutes.

Despite the setback, the Thunder remained on top of the heap after finishing the elimination with a 7-3 card.

The Thunder are already assured of the top ranking and the twice-to-beat incentive.

Red Bull had the chance to force overtime when Pierre Louis bungled two charities but Willie Miller missed an open shot with four seconds remaining in the ensuing play.

Scores:

FEDEX 92—Walker 31, Pierre-Louis 23, De Ocampo 12, Meneses 12, Ritualo 9, Arboleda 3, Pumaren 2, Codifera 0, Realubit 0.

RED BULL 90—Lang 37, Miller 20, Nwosu 17, Harp 10, Tugade 6, Villoria 0, Valenzuela 0, Torion 0.

Quarters: 27-23; 50-44; 72-70; 92-90

Mikey, Yeng grace Nike 3 on 3 Aug. 10

NIKE 3 on 3 goes to Pampanga on Aug. 10 as the longest running and most prestigious high school basketball tournament is staged for the first time in the province at the SM City, with 20 teams competing.

University of Assumption and New Era College lead the roster of teams vying for an outright slot to the National Finals set on Sept. 1 at the Alabang Town Center.

Officials of Nike Philippines will come in full force during the event, with marketing manager Colo Ventosa, sports marketing manager Auty Villarama and marketing coordinator Rely San Agustin welcoming the participants.

Among the invited guests for the opening ceremony are

Pampanga vice governor Mikey Arroyo and Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who is also a member of the provincial board.

This early, the teams are thrilled with the prospect of winning not only fabulous Nike giveaways, but also Nike gift certificates worth a total of P150,000, plus an elegant trophy if ever one of them bags the National Championship.

"A lot of schools have expressed interest in joining the Nike 3 on 3, but unfortunately, we have to limit the participants to 20. The game's format is really exciting, maybe next year we could already accommodate those that were not included this year," said Bernard Ocampo, Nike 3 on 3 area coordinator for Pampanga.

SPORTSWATCH

Patriotism theme of GMA concert

SOLEMN, patriotic, inspirational and breath-taking production numbers will highlight Alay sa Gintong Medalya, the fund-raising concert on Friday for Filipino athletes competing in the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea. The concert, featuring the country's top entertainers, will start at 8 p.m. at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City. The event is presented by Pagcor, Samsung Electronics, Centrum, Air Philippines, WG & A SuperFerry, Philtranco, Brunswick-Bong Coo Sports, Peak Sports and Bank of Commerce. Other supporters are PBA, Viva Vintage, PBL, the Manila Sports Council, the Philippine Taekwondo Association, UAAP and the NCAA. Four stunt artists will also perform high-wire acts in the Arena. Tickets are still on sale at all Shoemart TicketNet outlets. Prices are P800, P600, P350 and P100.

GTK, 3 stalwarts fly to Sri Lanka

ATHLETICS chief Go Teng Kok yesterday said the country's three stalwarts, including Eduardo Buenavista, are recuperating from injuries and illnesses but will nevertheless compete in the Asian track and field championships which begin Aug. 9 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Go said Buenavista has injured his knee and will take part only in the 5,000m run and skip his favorite 3,000m steeplechase. "The doctors said he is ready to compete in the 5,000m but not in the steeplechase, where he has to jump over high hurdles," Go said. Middle-distance runner John Lozada and Ernie Candelario are also recovering from flu but will nonetheless see action in the Asian championships.



GOTENG KOK

Marc Anthony Reyes

Thunderbird showered with praise

SEVERAL cockers and breeders' organizations have sent congratulatory messages to Thunderbird Power Feeds after the country's market leader in gamefowl health and nutrition recently achieved world-class recognition. Thunderbird, with Sarimanok Feeds, is now an ISO 9001:2000 Certified after having complied with the standards set by the Anglo Japanese American Registrars of AJA, the world's premiere certification body for Quality Management Systems. "This is good news. Congratulations to Thunderbird. Now, we are more than ever assured that the feeds we are giving our roosters are of the best quality," said pitmaster Lancey de la Torre of Bacolod City. "I know some friends who in their effort to produce quality fighting cocks have even gone to the extent of importing feeds. Now there is no more reason for them to do so. Hurray to Thunderbird," said Iloilo's ace breeder Ricoy Palmares.

7-Stag derby slated Sept. 2 & 4

THE ROLIGON Mega Cockpit, in cooperation with Ninja Gamefowl Feeds, presents the annual "RAY Showdown 7-Stag National Derby," one of the longest-running stagfests on Sept. 2 and Sept. 4. "We've been staging this derby for more than 10 years now and because of the breeders' support, we have consistently attracted at least 80 participants every year," said derby hosts Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu, who will be assisted by veteran bet taker Renato Shio (Boulevard). Farm-to-farm screening starts on Aug. 9. Screening at Roligon is set on Aug. 18, 25, 31 and Sept. 1. Call 833-1638, 833-2275 or 851-0672 for other details. Screeners Mimi Itchon and former Mayor Juancho Aguirre said that stags banded by NGBA, GF-BAN, UCAP, NCA, MIGBA, PAGBA, LGBA and ICBA are accepted and must be presented for banding and categorization. Entry fee is P18,000 and the guaranteed prize is P1 million. The handler and gaffer's prize is P150,000 (guaranteed).

Tam took a job that had no takers—Literal

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHAT do you get from a team abandoned by budding cage stars? What do you do with budding cage stars reluctant to show up during practice? How will you treat a coach who coached a national team for free?

Basketball Association of the Philippines president Tiny Literal asked these questions in reaction to a report bannered by the INQUIRER that the House Committee on Youth and Sports will probe the national youth squad's recent debacle in the South-



LITERAL

east Asian Youth championship.

Rep. Monico Puentevella of Bacolod will conduct the inquiry on Aug. 21. The Filipino cagers finished fourth among five competitors to lose their crown.

Literal decried the move of at least six players with strong potentials to abandon the team.

"They didn't even show up in practices," Literal said. "They (players) have lost their sense and pride of donning the national colors and representing the country in international competitions. We have done our part in asking com-

mercial and school leagues to cooperate."

"It's better to compete and lose rather than surrender without a fight," Literal said.

He defended coach Johnny Tam.

"He (Tam) took a job that had no takers," said Literal. "Nobody wanted the job because the BAP can't afford to pay a big salary."

The virtual shoo-ins to the team who could have saved the day for the Philippines were Clifford Arao (6-foot-6) of San Beda, Job Sherwin Nkemakolam (6-foot-5) Ateneo, 2001 NCAA juniors MVP JR Reyes (6-foot-7) University of the Philippines, L.A. Tenorio (5-foot-7) Ateneo and Rommel Balboa (6-foot-5) University of Perpetual Help of Rizal.

Django, Nikoy paired for Busan Asiad billiards

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante, the losing finalist in the recent Cardiff (Wales) World Pool championship, will team up with Antonio "Nikoy" Lining in the 9-ball doubles of the Busan Asian Games next month.

"I'm skipping the U.S. Open as I find it an honor to be drafted to the Philippine Team for the Asian Games," said Bustamante in Tagalog during yesterday's PSA Forum.

Efren "Bata" Reyes, the 1999 world pool champion in Cardiff, will compete in the 8-ball

singles, an event billiard officials said Reyes also excels in.

Lining, the winner of the Japan Open in 2000 who topped the eliminations to select the members of the RP squad for the quadrennial meet, will also compete in the 9-ball singles.

Completing the pool squad is Lee Van Cortez, who is the other bet in the 8-ball event as the Filipinos will gun for a sweep of all three gold medals in billiards.

"This lineup and the players' respective

events are almost final," said Ernie Pajardo, president of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines who was joined at the forum by billiards godfather Putch Puyat.

But coach Ramon Ancaya said the player assignments will be finalized before the Aug. 15 deadline set by the Philippine Olympic Committee. Playing in the Asiad snooker event where three gold medals are also at stake are Marlon Manalo, James Al Ortega and Benjamin Guevarra.

ASM

ISCBC on tomorrow

THE INTER Sports Club Bowling Circuit (ISCBC) returns tomorrow at the MetroClub in Makati City, the Association of Non-Profit Clubs chaired by Ruben B. Encinas of Royale Tagaytay Country Club announced yesterday.

Stiff competition is expected among the participating teams this year: Alabang Country Club, Celebrity Sports Plaza, Green Valley Country Club-Pasig, MetroClub, Quezon City Sports Club and Royale Tagaytay Country Club.

To grace the opening ceremony as guest of honor is Vice Admiral Reuben Lista, Philippine Coast Guard commander who is an icon in Philippine bowling.

Steve Hontiveros, the Philippine Bowling Congress president, Ruben B. Encinas and Admiral Lista will throw the ceremonial ball.

Founded in 1982 by five of the pioneer sports clubs in Metro Manila (MetroClub, Makati Sports Club, Quezon City Sports Club and Philippine Columbian Association), the ISCBC has been running bowling tournaments up to 1992.

PLDT is the major sponsor. MetroClub president Francisco Buencamino will host the opening ceremony.

ISCBC committee members include Frank Zanduetta, tournament director; Dion Averilla, tournament adviser; and committee members Maximo Roque of Alabang Country Club, Chito Genito of Celebrity Sports Plaza, Pert Constantino of Green Valley-Pasig, Red Alegre of MetroClub, Lino Emata of Quezon City Sports and Jun Batac of Royale Tagaytay.

Chick Hearn, 85

LOS ANGELES —Chick Hearn, who made phrases like "slam dunk" and "air ball" common basketball expressions during his 42-year broadcasting career with the Los Angeles Lakers, died Monday night. He was 85. Hearn, the only play-by-play announcer the Los Angeles Lakers ever had, died at 6:30 p.m. at Northridge Medical Center Hospital, team spokesman Bob Steiner told a grim-faced news conference outside the hospital. Hearn was taken to the hospital Friday night after falling and striking his head in the back yard of the Encino home he shared with his wife, Marge. The two would have celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on Aug. 13.

AP

Spring taps Adducul for China cagefest

SPRING Cooking Oil bolstered its lineup by tapping the services of former MBA standout Romel Adducul for the prestigious Yunnan International Tournament set Sept. 11-21 in Yunnan, China.

"I'm happy that Romel (Adducul) has agreed to play for us," said Spring team owner and national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla. "He's definitely going to boost our title chances in Yunnan."

The 6-foot-6 Adducul, until recently with the Pangasinan Waves, became available after the country's other pro league, MBA folded up.

Also seeing action for Coach Tito Palma's Spring Cooking Oil in Yunnan are 6-foot-9 Jeffrey Flowers, another MBA star, and seven-time PBA Best Import awardee Bobby Parks.

Completing the spring squad, which has Ricky Magallanes as assistant coach, are Braulio Lim, Carlo Espiritu, Rodel Manuel, Joel Co, Mario Reyes and Archer Calacar.

"With Adducul, Flowers and Parks playing together, Spring will be very competitive in the (Yunnan) tournament," said Padilla.

Three Chinese teams, led by Liaoning Tigers, Hong Kong champion Pacific Long Distance Telephone and Australia's Sydney Kings, winner of the recent Jones Cup, will also vie in Yunnan.

Adducul's court of last resort

OFFICIALS of the beleaguered Metropolitan Basketball Association would do well to immediately find a solution to the problem confronting their displaced players before the tawdry mess leads to tedious and costly lawsuits. With the league in jeopardy of being mothballed for a long, long time, several jobless players are feeling the pressure to sue the MBA and team members for their failure to pay their obligations. One of

them is many-time national player Romel Adducul, the league's undisputed top drawer.

According to his friend and manager Ed Ponceja, the 6-foot-6 Adducul has not been paid his salary worth half of the contract he signed last April with his new team, the Pangasinan Waves. Adducul was earlier under contract with the LBC-Batangas Blades for a reported monthly pay of P500,000.

Last January, Adducul seemed

likely to play in the Philippine Basketball Association, but MBA chair and Batangas team owner Santi Araneta did not release him at the last minute of the drafting deadline. Yet days after when Adducul had been effectively removed from the PBA draft, the team announced it was ready to trade its marquee player to any other team.

"Foul!" reader Ignatius Chogori once said. "Mr. Araneta should have made this announcement earlier. Not a day before the (PBA

CLEAN
LIVING

Manolo
R. Inigo



drafting) deadline." Chogori was disgusted that Araneta not only deprived Adducul's dream of joining the PBA, but also deprived legions of basketball fans of their dream of watching this great player match up against the PBA's best.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Cristine Rose Mariano finished with 8.5 points to win the national women's chess tournament at the Don Severino Agricultural College in Cavite.

Rizal booters blank Camarines Norte foes, 8-0

RIZAL Province overwhelmed Camarines Norte, 8-0, at the start of the Luzon finals of the national men's football championship yesterday at the Philsports field in Pasig City.

Dennis Guavis sparked Rizal's

breakaway by scoring a hat-trick in the 31st, 34th and 64th minutes.

Other Rizal scorers were Richard Torres with two (72nd and 89th), Albert Sanchez (23rd), Kirby Cuarlog (79th) and Isidro dela Paz (84th).

The Rizalians led 3-0 at half-time.

Baguio City and Laguna were playing in the other opening match at presstime.

Two other teams—highly rated NCR (National Capital Region), which is represented by Air Force, and Masbate—are vying in the tourney, which will deter-

mine the four Luzon teams that will compete in the National championship slated in Bacolod City on Sept. 14-19.

Teams which have already made it to the finals are Mindanao's Davao City, Dipolog, Iligan City and Cagayan de Oro and Visayas' Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Iloilo and Cebu.

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- FLAT INCL

WPD anti-narcotics chief relieved /A20

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

'Cardinal Sin was not feeling well' /A20

Binay wife faces probe for P162M deals

Makati mayor 'surprised'

By Alcuin Papa and Leila Salaverria

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman will form a panel that will investigate allegedly anomalous transactions amounting to P162 million entered into by the former Makati City mayor, Dr. Elenita Binay.

Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio yesterday said in a news conference in Quezon City that his office has received complaints from private citizens regarding the alleged anomalies.

The complaints, according to Gervacio, detailed 11 transactions—"over-priced" projects of the Makati City government totalling P162 million—which Dr. Binay reportedly approved from 2000 to 2002.

Gervacio said they would immediately file the appropriate graft charges

against Dr. Binay once they have established probable cause.

Gervacio also said that a Commission on Audit report citing the anomalies would be used as the basis of the cases to be filed against Dr. Binay.

The spokesperson of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, husband of the former mayor, expressed surprise at the acting Ombudsman's decision to look into the complaints.

"Obviously, we are surprised that there is such a move," said Lito Anzures on behalf of Mayor Binay. "All transactions (of the former mayor) are above-board and are subject to investigation by any government agency."

Anzures said the accusations could be election-related, adding that they would welcome an investigation.

BINAY/A20



Resistance is futile.

Don't fight the urge to download these scorching Hot Picks from July 31 to August 5.

p2

Da Silva released; arrest 'not proper'

By Christian V. Esguerra

FORMER "That's Entertainment" star Dennis da Silva and his 41-year-old common-law wife, who were detained Monday after the woman's 14-year-old daughter claimed Da Silva had been raping her, were ordered released yesterday.

Prosecutor Oliver Hernandez said the couple had to be released from the city jail since the manner of their arrest on Sunday "was not proper for inquest."

Even without an arrest warrant, policemen detained the couple after the woman's daughter accused Da Silva of raping her on many occasions since last October.

Prosecutors will conduct a preliminary investigation on Aug. 15 to determine if the case should be elevated to the regional trial court.

Hernandez said prosecutors could have kept Da Silva and his common-law wife if the complainant had been able to clearly state when and where the most recent rape incident occurred.

"There was no clear statement when she was last raped," the prosecutor told the Inquirer. "So we thought it would be better to conduct a preliminary investigation. We will also give the respondents a chance to controvert the allegations against them."

The girl's mother was named an accessory to the supposed crime because she allegedly did nothing about her daughter's complaint. Authorities learned about the supposed sexual abuses only after the girl's 21-year-old sister sought police help Sunday night. The elder sister said a drunken Da Silva was beating up the girl in their house in San Antonio Valley 5 in Parañaque City.

At the police station, the 14-year-old said Da Silva had been raping her since last October. She claimed she is now six months pregnant.

Police have not released the result of the medical tests conducted on the girl.

Top ten logos:



New logos:



New picture messages:



New ring tones:

Miracle	A1	TONE MIRACLE
One In Love	A1	TONE ONELOVE
Firewoman	Hungry Young Poets	TONE FYRWOMAN
Love Of My Life	South Border	TONE LOVELYF
PMST	Triaxis	TONE PMST
Puwede Ba?	Viktoria	TONE PUWEDEBA
Sa Iyo	South Border	TONE SAYO
To Be Near You	Viktoria	TONE NEARYOU
Tunay Na Kulay	Razorback	TONE THAYKILAY
Brand New Girl	Champagne Morales	TONE BRNDGRL

Top ten ring tones:

Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	TONE BUTTERCUP
Say My Name	Destiny's Child	TONE SAYMYNAME
Heaven By Your Side	A1	TONE HEAVENBY
Kahit Kailan	South Border	TONE KAHITKILAN
Ain't It Funny	Jennifer Lopez	TONE AINTITFUN
Saranggola Ni Pepe	Celeste Legaspi	TONE SARANGGOLA
Farewell To You My Friends	Raymond Lauchengco	TONE FAREWELL
Tell Me	Side A	TONE TELLME
Leron Leron Sinta	Side A	TONE LERON
So Many Questions	Side A	TONE SOMANY

Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers for selected Nokia cell phones. P15.00 per successful download. To get random keywords of zed logos, type in **RANDOMLOGO** and send to 288. To get random keywords of zed ring tones, type in **RANDOMTONE**. For keywords of other zed services, type in **KEYS** and send to 288.



Show 'em what you've got.

zeducation

You can win **P100,000** or **Nokia 3350** cell phones when you join the zeduction logo and picture message design contest. Turn your artsy fartsy fantasy into fame and fortune. Are you up for it?

Get your zeduction at the following schools:

- Lyceum from August 5 to 9.
- Pamantasan ng Makati from August 7 to 9.

Watch out for more schools next week!

Here's how to join:

1. This contest is open to all high school and college students 15-25 years of age who are SMART or Talk 'N Text subscribers. Students who are taking up post-graduate, professional or masteral courses are excluded.
2. Students should submit their logo and/or picture message designs in the official entry form available at www.smart.zed.com as well as through contest flyers circulated in schools.
3. Contest Duration: July 8 - October 8, 2002.

The 30 finalists for best operator logo and the 30 finalists for best picture message will be given (1) one Nokia 3350 cell phone with a SMART zed Buddy slim pack each.

Best Operator Logo
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DA SILVA during Monday's inquest.

ERIK ARAZAS

Honest waiter accepts new job from Gordon

By Jerome Aning

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon has given a new job to an honest young waiter who returned to its owner the \$100,000 he found at the coffee shop of the Sulu Hotel in Quezon City recently.

The waiter, Herbert Ocampo, readily accepted the job at the Duty Free Philippines which the Department of Tourism offered him. He will be assigned to the customer service of DFP's main store at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Paranaque City.

Gordon said Ocampo is "a model that every Filipino should emulate" so that foreigners would see the Philippines as a "tourist-friendly nation."

"Let the world know that in this country, honesty is a value that is still adhered to by most Filipinos, despite the daily dose of news items to the contrary," Gordon said.

Three weeks ago, Ocampo found \$100,000 which a Filipino-Chinese businessman had left behind in the hotel.

Ocampo and his wife Cristina paid Gordon a courtesy call at the

HONEST/p. A20

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Aug. 7, 2002

Electro-shock therapy not working. Patient still fixated with downloading zed logos to win daily, weekly and monthly prizes from zed LOGO LOCO. Screams uncontrollably about desire to be 32,092nd downloader today in order to win Pa1m m100 (fig. A). Pesters me to type HELP LOGOLOCO and send to 288. Wants more info regarding promo. Have tried increasing voltage. Patient spasms like fish on a hook. Quite entertaining to watch. Recommend we continue electro-shock therapy.

To join zed Logo Loco, type **JOIN LOGOLOCO <name>/<address>/<birthdate (mmddyy)/<gender>** and send to 288. Type **HELP LOGOLOCO** and send to 288 for more info. Or type **RANDOMLOGO** and send to 288 to get a random list of keywords of logos. This promotion is open to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1351, series of 2002

fig. A

fig. B

'TATANGA-TANGA'

WPD anti-narcotics chief relieved

By Philip Tubeza

"THEY WERE dumb."

This was how Manila police chief Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong described his anti-narcotics unit chief and a policeman whom he relieved for the escape of another prisoner from the Western Police District headquarters yesterday.

Last week, eight prisoners escaped from the WPD headquarters integrated jail. Four of them were later recaptured.

Bulaong yesterday said he relieved Supt. Jose Maria Espino, district drug enforcement (DDEG) unit chief, and PO2 Rejene Cayabyab, the officer who had custody of Cesar de la Cruz, the suspected drug pusher who escaped.

"(The DDEG) was trying to get more information from (Cesar de la Cruz)," Bulaong said. "It so happened that they were lax. *Tatangang-tanga kasi* (they were dumb)."

Bulaong emphasized that yesterday's incident was "not a jailbreak" since De la Cruz escaped from the DDEG office and not from the integrated jail.

But he said Espino and Cayabyab would be

sacked from the police force if they would be proven guilty.

"If it is proven that they are guilty, then they should suffer the consequences," Bulaong said.

Investigator SPO4 Mario Salonga said the escape happened at about 5:45 a.m. yesterday.

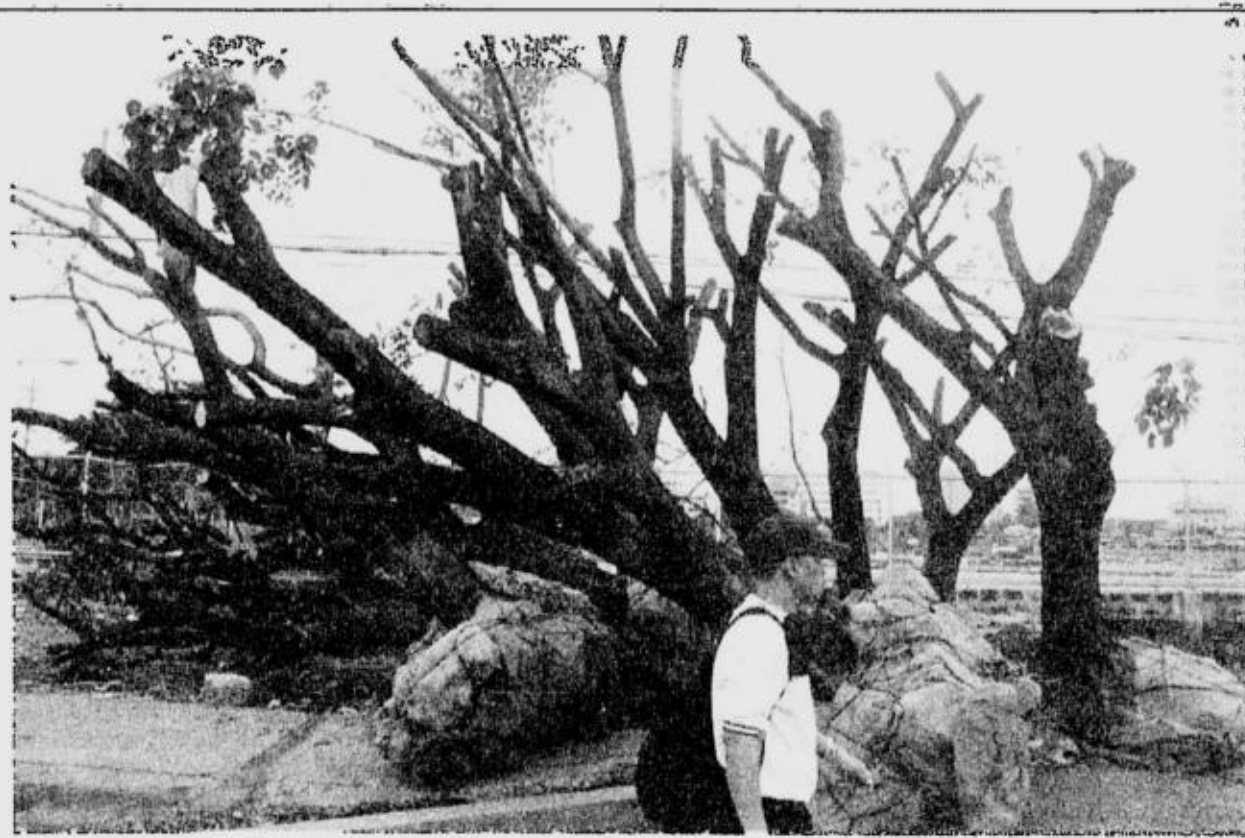
De la Cruz, 32, of Sta. Mesa, Manila, was caught with two sachets of shabu on June 24. He was taken to the Manila City Jail but was "loaned" to the DDEG on Monday so investigators "could get more information" from him.

Salonga said only Cayabyab and De la Cruz were present at the DDEG office when the fugitive escaped.

Cayabyab could not explain how De la Cruz got out of the room and escaped from the headquarters on UN Avenue.

Salonga said that while it was Cayabyab who sounded the alarm, the latter would be charged with infidelity while a prisoner was in his custody.

De la Cruz was already gone when Cayabyab asked for help from the other policemen at the headquarters.



WAITING FOR TRANSPLANT

Narra trees that have been uprooted and trimmed and their roots wrapped are waiting on East Avenue in Quezon City to be brought to a new location where they will be replanted.

DENNIS SABANGA

How to cure the Pinoy of this infection called basketball

SOMETHING must be done to change the national sports set-up. Actually, our sports authorities have tried practically assorted solutions-to no avail.

Maybe out of frustration, BILL AMADOR, who did not give his phone or address, has sent over a treatise on how to cure Philippine sports.

The proposal-centering on how to contain the basketball infection gripping the entire populace-could appear outlandish at the start.

But the input and the insight could serve as working points for those who truly aspire to make the Filipino Athlete a winner again. Here's Mr. Amador:

Willie Hernandez started basketball exposure on radio in the early 50s and the television broadcasts followed afterwards. From the early 60s up to the present, basketball enjoys no less than three prime-time slots every week, all year round.

Imagine that long period, nearly half a century of basketball, basketball and more basketball on primetime slots that have inevitably embedded the game in the subconscious not only of the youths but the entire populace.

Usually, it's the father or the elder brothers who are glued to television three times a week, not knowing that the five-year-old son is beside also to savor the supposedly superb playing style of local cage heroes—from Loyzaga, Badion, Jaworski, Webb, to Papa, Florencio, Arnaiz, Adornado, Munar, Patrimonio, Lastimoso, Abarrientos, etc.

At a young age, the boy becomes totally immersed in basketball. The game is now a passion burning in his genes. He craves to play no other sports, enjoys no other program on television. At times, the boy would quarrel with mommy or ate on what program to watch and, very often, the basketball addict wins.

Multiply this scene a million times all over the country. Basketball, after all, is not only seen in Metro Manila television, not only in urban centers; the games are carried, at times rebroadcast in even the remotest corners of the country, supposedly for the benefit

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

of those who failed to watch the live telecast.

In truth, however, this is to air more commercials and generate bigger income for league organizers and the radio and TV networks.

Come to think of it, the commercial and corporate sponsors continue to benefit all these years to the prejudice of Philippine sports in general. TV and radio broadcast effectively reach the mass base, the grassroots all over. As a result, in urban and rural centers all over the country, basketball courts abound even in narrow streets. Young and old play the game in rice farms, coconut groves, beaches, just anywhere there's imaginable space to complete a so-so court, or put up a makeshift goal.

This one is no exaggeration. One time, while driving out in Sampaloc, I almost bumped a boy who burst out of their apartment door into the street as he mimicked a speedy lay-up maybe by Abarrientos, Samboy Lim, or maybe to try a slam by Asaytono. How did the boy get infected? Naturally, through the live telecast of basketball three times a week, all year round.

There is not only the PBA to reckon with. There's practically no respite from basketball on television. The NBA is momentarily off, but there's the UAAP and the NCAA on other channels, while the PBL is just waiting on the sidelines to do its thing.

You really think other sporting events have a chance in the Philippines?

The effort to go far and wide in order to tap potentials in other events like swimming, archery, athletics, taekwondo, is often an exercise in futility.

Fine, sometimes some groups would be successful in their recruitment, as in the case of the Little Leaguers in baseball. But where are these talented young baseball players

now? Even the sons of Boy Codinera, one-time Mr. RP Baseball, have had to leave their bats and gloves to try their luck in the big time basketball scene—where the big money is.

We also remember two great Olympians, Ed Ocampo and Eddie Pacheco, who played and excelled in football in the 50s. Pacheco deserted the football field and played for Ysmac Steel in the MICA. The same was true of Ocampo, a Mr. Football, who inevitably gravitated to basketball and donned the Yco Painters uniform.

Basketball, no thanks to television, is now an infection that has ruined development in other national sporting events.

And there is only one solution. Regrettably, this is a drastic one: There should be a total ban, not partial, not limited, on radio/television broadcast of basketball games all over the Philippines.

Lest it be misunderstood, the ban should only be for the radio/television exposure of basketball games. The game of basketball itself cannot be banned, it must continue to be enjoyed outside of the boob tube. It will continue to be played in stadiums, Araneta, Cuneta, Philsports, Rizal Memorial, anywhere. But let those who want to watch the games go there personally. This way, we cannot expect the small kids to also be infected, because they cannot always tag along their dad or elder brods.

Of course, there would be some exceptions to the ban, like newsclips of game results in newscasts. The reportage of basketball games will also be carried in sports pages.

Now, if this prescription is followed, the masses, eventually and gradually, will be exorcised of the basketball infection.

And so, with no more basketball games on television, the mass base, after some 4 to 5 years, would begin to breed and bring forth naturally inclined sports potentials in other events like football, baseball, tennis, athletics, etc.

With the rapidly growing populace, (there are now over 80 million Filipinos) there should be no difficulty choosing the best talents

Manila dads, RTC judges laud Chief Justice Davide

MANILA councilors and judges of the city's regional trial court yesterday lauded Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide who recently won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for government service.

Speaking in behalf of her colleagues, RTC Executive Judge Concepcion Alarcon-Vergara called Davide an inspiration to all the members of the judiciary for his "probity and his exemplary performance" as chief justice.

The judges and councilors cited Davide's presiding over the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada and his supervision of the courts.

Councilor Arlene Koa, author of the council resolution honoring Davide, called his performance "sterling."

The councilors also recalled Davide's heading of a committee that divided Manila into six legislative districts during the 1986 Constitutional Commission.

Davide raised the bar of excellence and set a very high moral and ethical standard in the judiciary, Vergara said.

"We judges can only hope to emulate (his) diligence and integrity," she said.

The Ramon Magsaysay Awards, given annually, are regarded as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Binay wife faces probe . . .

From p. A19

"Actually, this is a welcome opportunity for us to put the issue to rest," Anzuers said. "We are ready, willing and able to face the investigation."

He said they have not received notice from the Ombudsman concerning the investigation.

He said that should an inquiry be made, they are certain that the former mayor would be cleared.

Gervacio is one of those that President Macapagal-Arroyo is considering to replace former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, who

retired recently.

Gervacio also announced that his office has dismissed seven civil cases filed against former Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., Jejomar Binay who is also former chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, and Payatas barangay chair Emerita Pecson, who were charged with the tragic collapse at the dump in Payatas, Quezon City two years ago. More than 200 people died when the mountain of garbage fell on the shanties of residents.

Gervacio said the civil cases will be turned over to the lower courts, which will decide whether or not to pursue the cases.

UP High reunion

ALL Philippine-based members of UP High School Class 1970 are invited to a reunion to be held at the Taste of LA on Rocas Avenue, near the corner of Tomas Morato, in Quezon City, on Aug. 18, 2002. For more details, call Erlito Fider at 888-0999, Romeo Candazo at 0919-6799352, or Sally Jose Laxamana 0917-5291269, or Cip "Ryan" Cayabyab at 0917-5263473, 632-3676 or 843-8040.

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'Cardinal Sin was not feeling well'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CHURCH yesterday assured the urban poor of its full support regarding the reported displacement of around 100,000 informal settlers in Metro Manila.

Fr. Anton Pascual, director of Caritas Manila, also apologized for Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's failure to show up during a meeting with about 20 community leaders last Saturday.

Caritas is the social services

and development ministry of the Archdiocese of Manila.

"The Cardinal was not feeling well," Pascual said in a telephone interview. "But we want them to know that they enjoy the 100-percent support of the Cardinal."

Urban poor leaders had gone to Sin's residence at Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong to seek his support regarding the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's plan to demolish thousands of shanties that they said would leave about

100,000 families homeless.

They also wanted to personally thank Sin for urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to "implement a sustainable development for the urban poor" in a July 3 letter to Malacañang.

But they were dismayed after the Cardinal did not show up and instead reportedly accommodated Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople who paid him a courtesy call that same day.

Pascual said he met with the

group for about an hour in the villa to discuss its requests.

During the meeting, the leaders asked that Sin urge MMIDA Chair Bayani Fernando not to "violate the human rights of the poor" in implementing the government's flood-control projects, the priest said.

"I assured them that the Cardinal and the Church are fully behind them," Pascual said. "What's important now is to follow up the government's programs for the poor."

Honest waiter accepts new job from Gordon

From p. A19

Tourism office in Manila, during which the secretary introduced the former waiter to his new boss, DFP general manager Michael Kho.

Gordon said he would talk about Ocampo's deed in the first leg of a tourism promotion blitz that will cover three continents,

starting with North America, from Aug. 5 to Sept. 1.

According to DOT statistics, North America accounts for 25 percent of the country's total visitor arrivals in 2001.

Gordon's North American campaign will cover nine cities in the United States and Canada.

He expects to reach out to the estimated 3 million Filipino-

Americans and Filipino-Canadians whom he hopes to enlist in a campaign to persuade foreigners to visit the Philippines as tourists.

He will visit San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Washington DC, Chicago, New York, New Jersey as well as Toronto, Canada.

Gordon said the sales campaign will be brought later to ma-

jor travel markets in Asia, particularly China, Japan and Korea, and in Europe, especially Spain, England, Austria and Italy.

The DOT's heightened tourism promotion campaign follows its visit to the Philippines 2003 program.

The World Tourism Organization recently declared the Philippines the international tourism destination for 2003.

For screening times, call 779-7177. Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

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3 MEGGIDO	3 LIFE OR SOMETHING...	3 HOTDOG & BOYFRIENDS JULY 26 & 27 9-PM	3 AMELIE	3 MEGGIDO
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10	MEGIDDO

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8	MEGIDDO

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2	SUM OF ALL FEARS

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4	URAGON

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8 (DOLBY)	URAGON
9 (DOLBY)	MEGIDDO

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4	GALING MO BABES
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8	URAGON
9	MEGIDDO

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3	URAGON
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8	MEN IN BLACK 2
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6	STUART LITTLE 2
7	WINDTALKERS
8	MEN IN BLACK 2
9	HIGH EXPLOSIVE

Gotesco Ortigas

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1	GALING MO BABES
2	SAGAD
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	URAGON
5	WINDTALKERS

Universal

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1	URAGON
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Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7088

1	URAGON
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1	GALING MO BABES
2	SAGAD

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1	URAGON
2	GALING MO BABES
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6	URAGON
7	SAGAD
8	ALL ABOUT A BOY

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522-7161416

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2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
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4	ALL ABOUT A BOY
5	WINDTALKERS
6	SAGAD
7	STUART LITTLE 2
8	SORORITY BOYS
9	GALING MO BABES
10	PAKI SABI NA LANG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG
4	WINDTALKERS
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	D'URAGON
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	GALING GALING BABES
9	SORORITY BOYS
10	SAGAD
11	MEN IN BLACK 2
12	MEGIDDO

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	8 LEGGED FREAKS
5	MEGIDDO
6	WINDTALKERS
7	PAKISABI NA LANG
8	SAGAD
9	D'URAGON
10	SORORITY BOYS
11	MEN IN BLACK 2
12	GALING GALING BABES

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 / 6329401

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	MEGIDDO
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	PAKISABI NA LANG
9	D'URAGON
10	WINDTALKERS
11	GALING GALING BABES
12	SAGAD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	GALING GALING BABES
4	D'URAGON
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	ABOUT A BOY
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	WINDTALKERS

SM SOUTHMALL

8086888

1	HIGH CRIMES
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	MEN IN LACK 2
7	PAKI SABI NA LANG
8	URAGON
9	WINDTALKERS
10	GALING MO BABES

SM CITY CEBU

2313879

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	SORORITY BOYS
4	DOG SOLDIERS
5	URAGON
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	GALING MO BABES
8	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	URAGON
2	CLOSED
3	ALL ABOUT BENJAMINS
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	BIG FAT LIAR
7	CLOSED
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	GALING MO BABES
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	URAGON

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8294975

1	GALING MO BABES
2	WINDTALKERS
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	URAGON

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	URAGON

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	WINDTALKERS
4	URAGON
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	MEGIDDO

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2	4 NEW
3	STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
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6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	URAGONS
9	GALING MO BABES
10	STUART LITTLE 2

Ermita

536-7809-12

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	URAGONS
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	GALING MO BABES
6	ABOUT A BOY
7	KILLING ME SOFTLY

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2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	ABOUT A BOY
4	URAGONS
5	WINDTALKERS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	URAGONS
8	URAGONS

Novaliches

935-3279-30

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	GALING MO BABES
7	URAGONS
8	URAGONS

Imus

471-8188 / 875-3838

1	WINDTALKERS
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	URAGONS

Bacolod

441-0453 / 0459

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3	PAKI SABI NA LANG
4	WINDTALKERS
5	WALK TO REMEMBER
6	BIG FAT LIAR

Iloilo

336-8077-78

1	WINDTALKERS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	BIG FAT LIAR
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	URAGONS
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\$60M US opening a good omen for 'Signs'

LOS ANGELES—"Signs" ran crop circles around the competition to top an unusually strong weekend box office for August.

The film, starring Mel Gibson as a farmer who finds mysterious patterns marking his fields, raked in \$60.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The top 12 movies grossed an estimated \$143 million, down 12 percent from the same weekend last year but still an unexpectedly strong showing, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

"All of a sudden comes a month where a \$60 million opening is possible. It used to be called the 'dog days of August.' It was a slowdown period. Well, this is no slowdown period anymore," Dergarabedian said.

Three low-budget films opened to modest takes. "The Master of Disguise" eked out third place in a market crowded with family films, taking in \$13 million.

In fourth place, "Martin Lawrence Live: Runteldat" opened to \$7.5 million. The film follows comedian Lawrence on a 2001 standup tour.

Steven Soderbergh's "Full Frontal" debuted with just \$725,000. The comedy about a group of Los Angeles oddballs had been billed as a return to Soderbergh's low-budget roots honed more than a decade ago with "sex, lies and videotape." That film made about \$25 million. "Full Frontal" is on track to

make just \$3 million to \$4 million domestically, said David Kaminow, senior vice president of marketing for Miramax.

"Austin Powers in Goldmember," the third installment in the spy-spoof series, slipped to the No. 2 spot in its second week of release, making \$32.4 million for a total of \$143 million.

The film is the 11th release this year to pass the \$100 million mark.

For "Signs," the opening was the best ever for both Gibson and the film's writer-director, M. Night Shyamalan.

Shyamalan also directed "Sixth Sense" and "Unbreakable."

The Gibson-Shyamalan combination, plus the public's interest in the crop circle phenomenon, made for a powerful draw, said Dick Cook, chairman of Walt Disney Studios.

"In order to get a number like that, you have to have all those things working," Cook said.

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding" continued its strong showing, climbing to eighth place from 10th last weekend. The comedy has made \$40 million since debuting 16 weeks ago as it moves up the chart and adds theaters.

Next weekend is expected to be a profitable one as well, with the release of Sony Pictures' "XXX," a thriller starring Vin Diesel.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to



POWERFUL DRAW. Mel Gibson and Joaquin Phoenix in M. Night Shyamalan's "Signs."

Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures are to be released Monday.

1. "Signs," \$60.3 million.

2. "Austin Powers in Goldmember," \$32.4 million.

3. "The Master of Disguise," \$13 million.

4. "Martin Lawrence Live: Runteldat," \$7.5 million.

5. "Road to Perdition," \$6.6 million.

6. "Stuart Little 2," \$6 million.

7. "Men in Black 2," \$4.7 million.

8. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," \$3.01 million.

9 (tie). "K-11: The Widowmaker," \$3 million.

9 (tie). "The Country Bears," \$3 million.

Andrew Bridges, AP

GMA 7's news program switch prompted by female-dominated viewership

REALIZING that the early evening television time slot is dominated by female viewers, GMA 7 decided to switch its evening news programs.

"Saksi," anchored by Mike Enriquez and Vicky Morales, is now in the late-night slot, while Mel Tiangco's "Frontpage" is in the early evening slot.

"Demographics showed there are more female viewers from late afternoon to the early prime-time slot," explains "Saksi" executive producer John Manalastas. "So the network made the programming in those hours more female-directed. After 'Xtra, Xtra,' Mel follows with the early evening news on 'Frontpage,' and then come the telenovelas.

"The late-night slot shows there are more male viewers so we made Mike and Vicky do the 10:30 newscast. Everything is audience-based and the programming is more focused."

Mike, who pioneered "Saksi" from a mere 15-minute news program in 1995 to a full-length newscast, fills the slot vacated by "Frontpage."

The bold switch of "Saksi" and "Frontpage" reinforces GMA 7's "Telebabad" block

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

from late afternoon to late night.

Mike's plan

MIKE says that in the next five years, he would like to plan slowing down after being in broadcasting since 1969.

"I want to listen to more music, read more books, travel to other destinations," he says. "But it's different when you enjoy what you do. You don't need to be asked to work, you just want to be there."

"When we learned that (Abu Sayyaf leader) Abu Sabaya was feared dead, we aired a special newscast on a Saturday and the reporters and newscasters went to the station. I guess it's the journalist's blood in us."

Mike is aware that he makes enemies in his search for news. "I don't want to deal with them," he said. "Otherwise, you'll spend your whole life carrying that baggage. I just do my work."

Mel's men

MEL Tiangco admits that because she was comfortable with the late-night "Frontpage," her daily schedule was largely altered with the switch to the early evening slot.

But she is hardly complaining. If anything, she swears she now has time to go out at night.

She says that after ending her romance with fellow broadcaster Jay Sonza, she does not fear falling in love again. But even if there's no one special yet, Mel insists she doesn't feel incomplete.

She has started dating again, although there's no one prominent among the guys she goes out with.

"I discovered Dish and I've been there three times," Mel grants. "I like the music of Spirit of '67. I don't know if the guys are intimidated. Sometimes, I guess it's a disadvantage that my reputation precedes me. There was someone who came up to me and asked me to dance in a dinner party. He looked like a very decent man so I obliged."

Not for the faint hearted

IF YOU have a weak heart, don't watch "Windtalkers."

The latest from director John Woo was too violent for me and my friend, Shirley, when we watched it Saturday night at Glorietta 4.

A number of scenes made us flinch and cover our eyes. How could you look at blood spurting from a marine's stomach, bodies burning after a blast, a bloodied cut-off leg or Nicolas Cage slashing the neck of a Japanese soldier?

Less than five minutes into the movie, viewers are drawn into a bloody battle scene on Solomon Island. But the battle sequences are the highlights of the film.

There are no white doves flying in this movie, which viewers saw in Woo's "Face-Off" (also starring Cage with John Travolta) and "Mission Impossible 2" (with Tom Cruise and Doug Gray Scott).

The opening scene in "Windtalkers" has a breathtaking backdrop. Then the scene dissolves into a butterfly hovering over a blood-stained river—symbolism that one see only in a John Woo film.

Cage, a Woo favorite since "Face-Off," gives a compelling portrayal of an American marine (Joe Enders) tasked to lead a recon unit in Saipan. But the atrocities of war keep hounding Enders, whether he is in and out of the battlefield.

Two good actors, however, are relegated to so-so parts. The versatile Jason Isaacs has a brief role as Cage's officer-in-charge.

Isaacs was the guy we loathed for fighting with Mel Gibson in



TIANGCO



MORALES



ENRIQUEZ

"The Patriot." He was also the cross-dressing gay best friend of Charlize Theron in the romance-drama, "Sweet November."

Christian Slater, who was also in Woo's "Broken Arrow" (with Travolta), is assigned a minor part which my friend described as a "mere harmonica player."

The good-looking Adam Beach, who hasn't had a lengthy exposure in a major film, shows a flair for acting which can earn him more challenging roles in the future. He plays a brave marine who doesn't have qualms about crying even as he dodges bullets in the battlefield.

When a shirt-less Beach is shown bathing in a river, I heard a number of "ooohs" from women in the audience.

The forty-something Cage also displays his perfect physique. While recuperating from a war injury, he is seen jogging on the beach in a shirt that shows off his gorgeous body.

Apart from showing the brutalities of war, "Windtalkers" centers on the friendships between the Navajo code talkers and the American marines.

Cage is initially at odds with Beach during their first meeting in a naval camp. But the two later have an extraordinary bonding in the war zone.

"Windtalkers" educates the viewers about the Navajo code which was essential to the American victory in the Battle of Saipan in 1944. The code was never broken, it says at the end of the film.

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KILLING ME SOFTLY - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	MEN IN BLACK 2 P13 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	WINDTALKERS P13 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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HIGH EXPLOSIVE

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Gordon to meet with Hollywood bigwigs

TOURISM Secretary Richard J. Gordon is confident to get the nod of more Hollywood movie producers in Los Angeles, California, to consider the Philippines as the venue for location shooting of top caliber movies.

Gordon will meet with the top brass of Hollywood productions like Sony-Columbia Pictures, Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks and Universal Pictures, among others.

The meeting, scheduled on Aug. 26, is part of his two-week journey that will bring him to nine cities in North America to intensify marketing efforts for the country's tourism initiatives included

in "Visit Philippines 2003."

Gordon believes that Hollywood films shot locally would indeed bolster the government's efforts to promote the Philippines internationally.

In his most recent trip to Hollywood, Gordon met with a group of producers reportedly enthusiastic about filming in the Philippines.

Gordon revealed that multi-talented actor Brad Pitt has already signed up with Sony-Columbia Pictures to do a war film, "Fertig." Pitt is expected to arrive in the country early next year.

"Fertig" is a true-to-life story of Wen-

del Fertig, an American soldier who declared himself a general and joined the guerilla movement in Mindanao during World War II. The script of the film, according to Gordon, is based on the novel written by W.E.B. Griffen, an American writer who specializes on war stories.

Another war movie, "The Great Raid," to be produced by Marimax, is about a raid on a prisoners' camp in Cabanatuan City, where 500 American and British prisoners were in grave danger. Benjamin Brad, ex-boyfriend of Julia Roberts, will star in the war drama. Starring with him is Cesar

Montano.

Hollywood is also proposing to film another war movie in the Philippines, "Ghost Soldiers." The proposed film is based on the best-selling novel of Hampton Sides to be produced and directed by Steven Spielberg for his own Dreamworks outfit, in a joint venture with Universal Pictures.

"Ghost Soldiers" is about the survivors of World War II's Bataan Death March, who languished in a Japanese prison camp until they were rescued three years later by Allied Forces.

Tom Cruise is being eyed for the lead role.

'Windtalkers': War and spirituality

JOHN Woo's current film, "Windtalkers," is a different kind of war movie because it focuses on the little-known fact that the US army's corps of Navajo code "talkers" helped win the Second World War in the Pacific.

The American military was compelled to use Navajo recruits because US codes kept getting broken by the Japanese. It was only when the Navajos talked to each other in their language that the Japanese code-breakers were foiled.

As a result, American forces could communicate top-secret information without the enemy finding out about it, and the tide of battle finally turned for the US.

But there's more to Woo's film than just the heroic exploits of these Navajo braves turned soldiers on special assignment. Perhaps because he isn't a WASP himself, Woo has taken extra pains to add more layers than usual to the Navajo characters in his movie.

A major element is their being a deeply spiritual and peace-loving people. As such, they get severely traumatized when they get their first exposure to the bloody carnage of war.

Later, one of them, Ben Yahzee (Adam Beach), learns to fight too well, and goes on a killing spree against the Japanese troops on the hotly-contested island of Saipan. Thus does Woo show how violently seductive war is.

The film's star, Nicolas Cage, is cast as a war-weary sergeant who is tasked with protecting Ben Yahzee at all cost,

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

since the US forces' secret weapons.

Cage's character is similarly given interesting levels to develop. He isn't just a soldier, but a war-battered one with a major trauma to deal with: in a past battle, all of the men under him died, while he was the only survivor, and he hasn't been able to get over the guilt.

Thus, the sergeant keeps risking his life on the battlefield, as though daring the monsters of war to do their worst. But his attitude is slowly changed by the spirituality of his Navajo Ward, Ben Yahzee.

This counterpoint of war and peace, life and death, and Navajo and military cultures make "Windtalkers" a compelling viewing experience.

On the debit side, some of the points the movie makes are too obvious or heavy-handed, and the plot development is occasionally strained to make way for yet another ponderous "message."

This may have been ok in the more simplistic '40s, but it's much too solemn and preachy for today's audience. Still, some of Woo's points are well-taken, and the Navajo slant is unique, so the message-oriented film is generally not a turn-off.

Cinemanila standouts

QUITE a number of film buffs have been asking us for suggestions on which of the current Cinemanila 2002 movies to make a beeline for. To come up with that list of must-sees, we contacted colleagues who have already seen some of the entries in festivals abroad, or in preview here. Their recommendations:

Not to be missed: "Ataranjuat" (Past Runner), a Canadian film by a first-time director who's an Eskimo.

The film has been a sensation in international filmfests.

"Quitting" (China).

"What Time Is It Over There?" (Taiwan)

"Y Tu Mama Tambien" (Mexico)

"Failan" (Korea)

"Chicken Rice War"

"Fast Food, Fast Woman"

"No Man's Land"

"In The Mood for Love"

"Pinero"

CINEMANILA 2002
SCRIPTWRITING COMPETITION
SCREENPLAY FINALISTS

ANDRES BONIFACIO *Tatlungpung Araw*
GREGORIO DE JESUS
BIYAHE NG PANGARAP
BUYONG
CUT
DILIM
HOCLOBAN
MARTIAL LAW BABIES
MGA WALANG LAMANG APARADOR
NOLI ME TANGERE
NO LOVE LOST
PAROUSIA
ROSAS PELIGROSAS
UGAT NATING LAHAT
WINDOW

The following finalists will be notified by phone, fax and email.
Winners of the Cinemanila 2002 Scriptwriting Competition will be announced on August 12, 2002 at the Awards Night at the Greenbelt Onstage.

Finalists of the Scriptwriting Competition will be invited to join the Roundtable Conference on August 12-14 where local and foreign directors and producers will be present, giving the chance for the scriptwriters to present their scripts.

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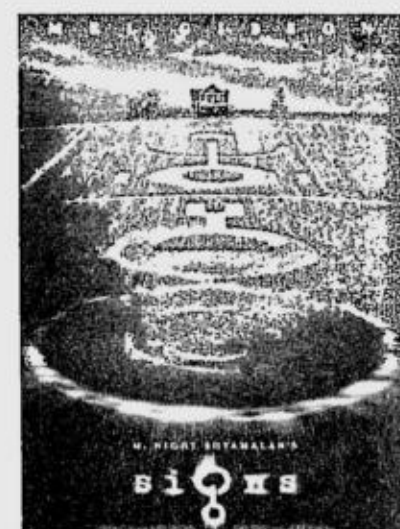
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Thursdays ...

From p. A25

Friends at Ortigas and Padi's Point Shaw.

Sometimes—and this went on for some seven months—they were put into a band, Park Avenue, as session performers, playing with more established musicians and further improving their music.

When Dominic travelled to the US, he made it a point to observe music trends. When he came back, he renewed ties with Burton.

Burton studied music at the Yamaha School of Music as early as 6 years old.

Burton is still in college trying to finish a degree in business management. He has his hands full of their performances and school.

Dominic does most of the songs of Brian McKnight and Joey Generoso. They also do covers of Stevie Wonder, Boys II Men and mostly R&B hits.

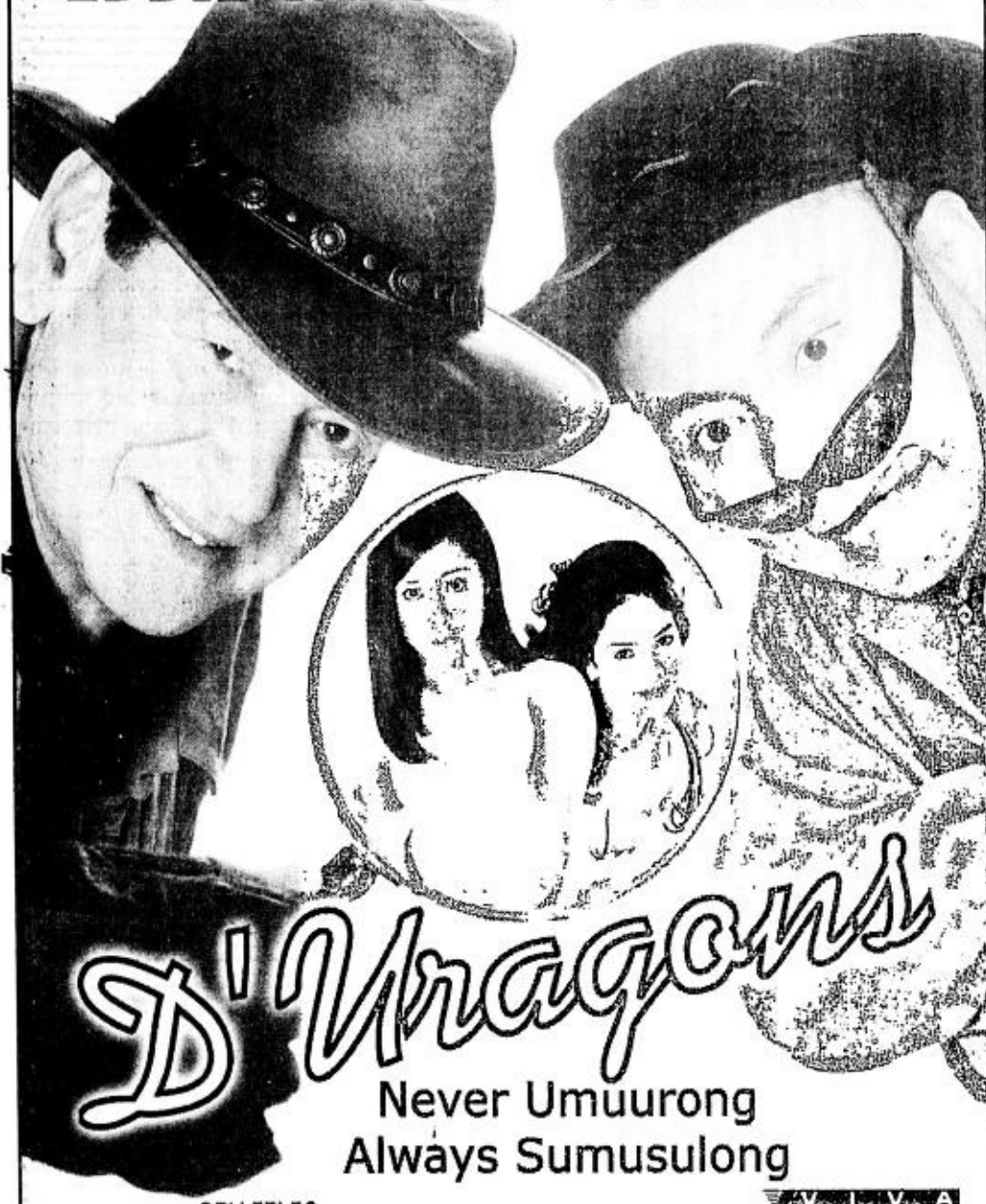
The night we visited Tapika, the very young crowd liked the performance of Dominic and Burton and many of them stayed until the duo's third set. These are the same kids who watch bands in clubs. That night, they apparently preferred the duo's more intimate music and the cozy venue.

Fred Samantela

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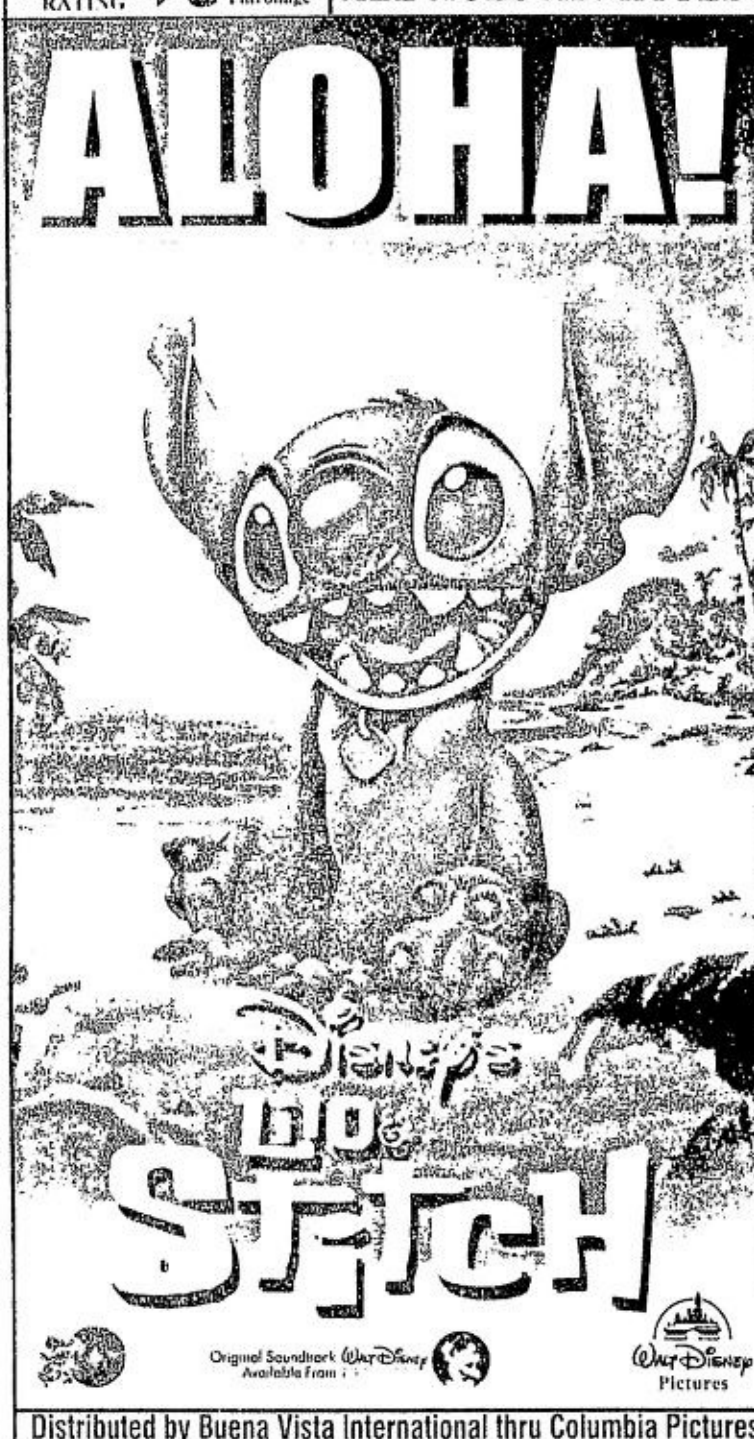
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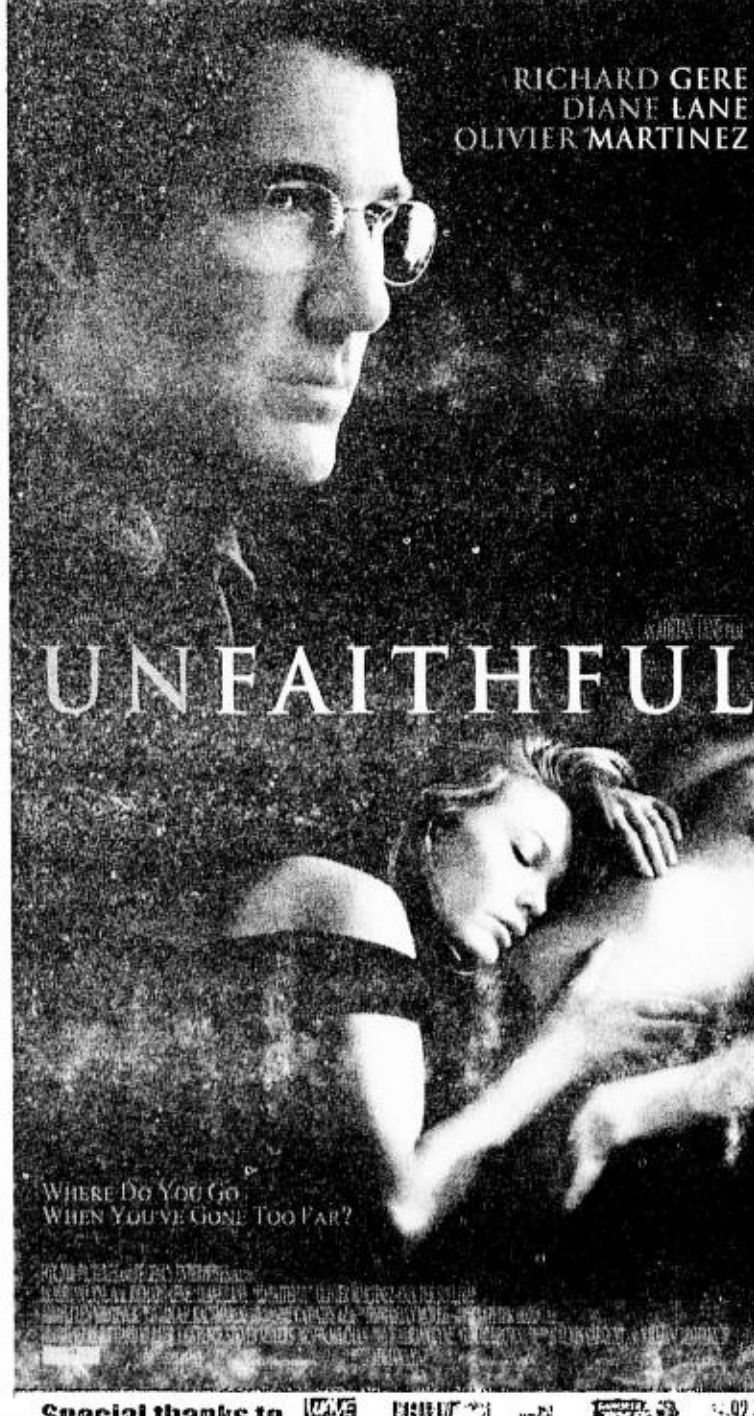
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Thursdays with Dominic and Burton

TAPIKA, a well-appointed specialty restaurant in the Blue Ridge-Katipunan area in Quezon City that serves fusion cuisine, recently opened a bar lounge on the second

floor and added acoustic music entertainment.

The tasteful interiors of the dining area were done by one of the Tapika owners, Joji

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TWO FOR TAPIKA, Dominic Cruz and Burton Sabile

Jacobe who is a professional interior designer. She also takes care of the menu and supervises the food preparation.

On Thursday nights, Tapika features Dominic Cruz and Burton Sabile, billed simply as Dominic and Burton. The young performers played with a band until they decided to form a duet specializing in acoustic music.

Dominic, the vocalist, is 26; Burton, the keyboardist, is 23. When they were still in high school, their band, Lights, placed first in Hard Rock Cafe's band contest in 1998. The band existed for two years, playing retro, pop, R&B.

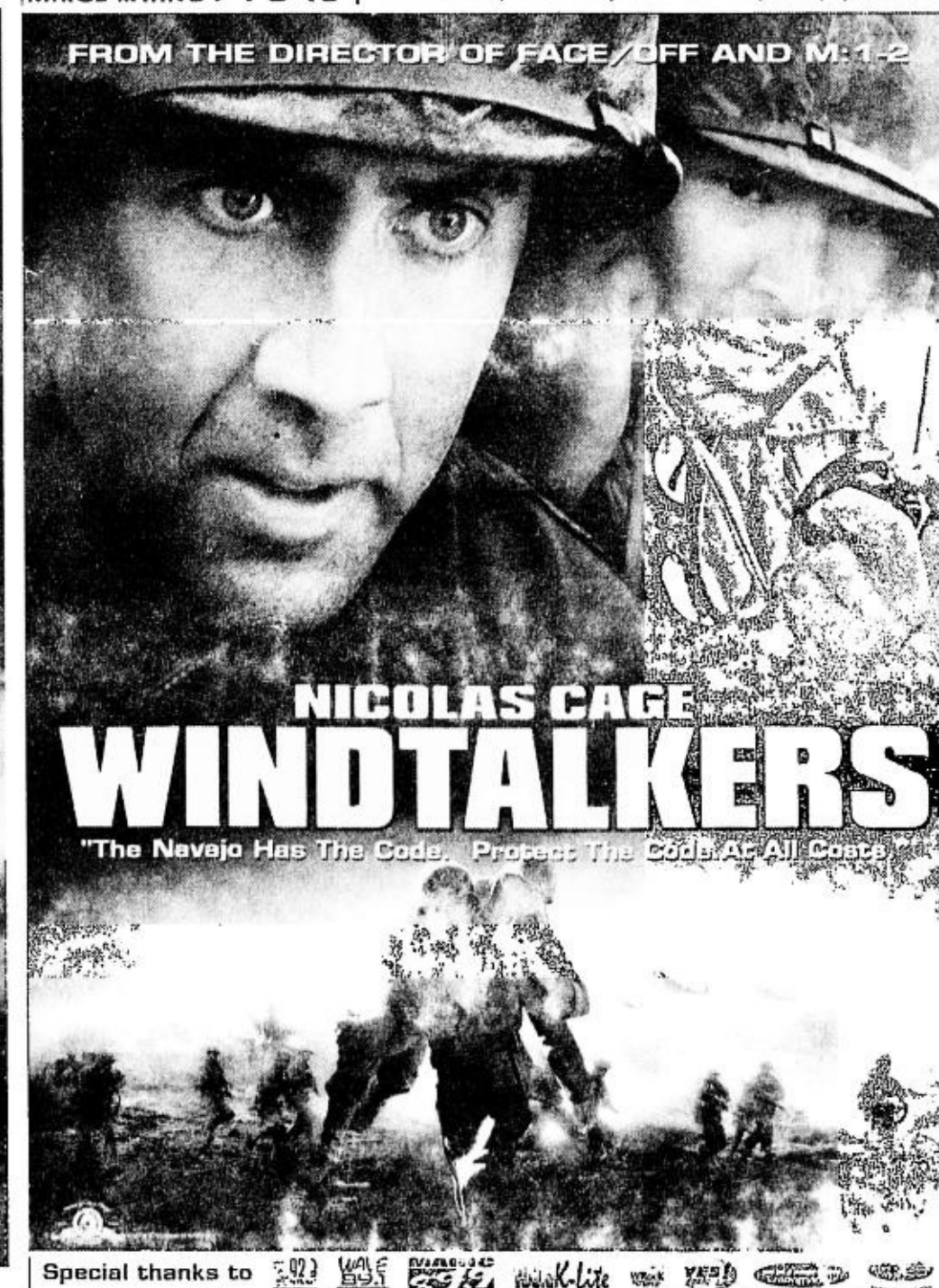
In 1999, Dominic and Burton started their career as a duo and performed at Padi's Point Sta. Lucia. It was then that they realized there was a market for acoustic music. They were together for a year, performing at Art's Venue,

THURSDAYS/p. A23

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ABOUT A BOY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
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ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SAGAD
REMAR	SAGAD
REMAR-2	ANG GALENG GALENG BABES

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SAGAD
B	SAGAD
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-2	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-3	PARISABH HA LANG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DOLBY)	D'URAGONS
CINEMA-6	MEGGIDO
CINEMA-7	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-8	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-9	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	ABOUT A BOY
CINEMA-14	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-15	D'URAGONS

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SELO
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-4	SELO
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-6	SELO

UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-3	
CINEMA-4	
(PAGSANGHAN)	
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4	SELO

Alien sightin'

Guess who's in town to leay

HE'S Experiment 626, galaxy's most wanted extraterrestrial. An out-of-control genetic alien, he runs away from Planet Turo before he gets transported to a distant desert asteroid. He's abnormally strong, indestructible, super smart and made to destroy everything he touches. And he's out to win the heart of Lilo, an exuberant and cheerful Hawaiian girl with a zest for life and "all things odd".

In search for a pet, Lilo adopts what she thinks is a dog and names him Stitch to the horror of her sister Nani. Realizing that Lilo and Nani provide a perfect safety shield against alien bounty hunters, Stitch welcomes the adoption and "sticks like glue" to his new family.

Stitch, however, proceeds to behave badly and create chaos while proving to be perhaps the least affectionate pet on the planet. Still, Lilo takes him under her wing and encourages him to be a model citizen like her hero Elvis Presley.

In the end, Lilo's unwavering faith in "Ohana," the Hawaiian tradition of family, unlocks his heart and gives him the one thing he was designed to have - the ability to love.

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path of chaos in his wake?

"two thumbs up!"

"a block"

GINEMAS
NOV SHOWING
LIL & STITCH
12:10, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
G
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
"A SHOW TO REMEMBER" (JOEL A.) 8:00 PM
2002 "SONATTA" (Harlem Video Company) 8:30 PM
THE PRESERVATION OF THE BONES 11:12-12:02

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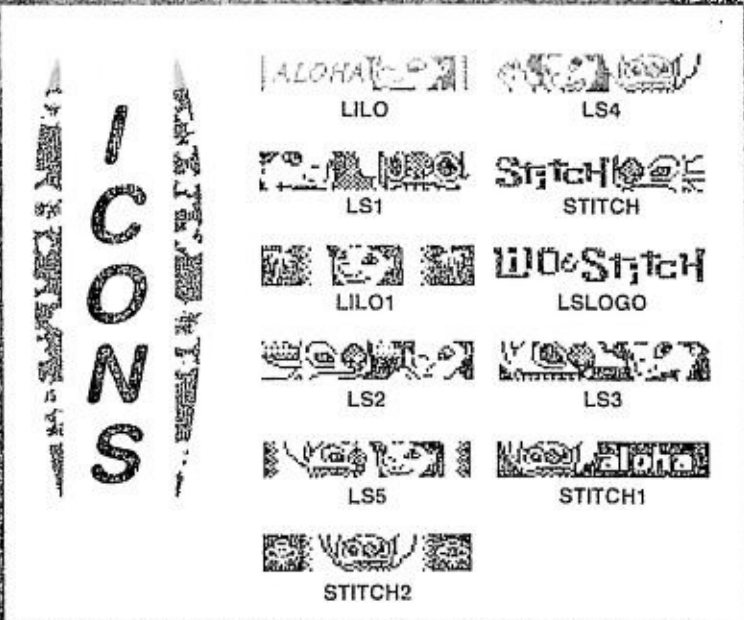
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In Cinemas AUGUST 14

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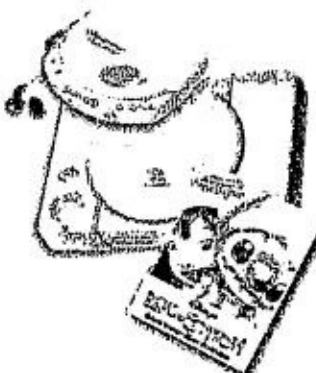
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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 3118 s. 2002

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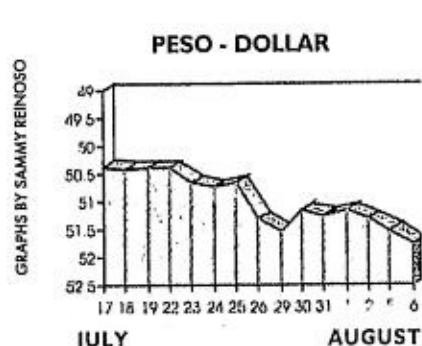
B1



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RP, Asian stocks slump to new lows

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PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 51.77 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 6, 2002

Y 120.46 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 6, 2002

GOLD: \$306.70/307.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 6, 2002

Aug. 6, 2002
Country

Unit

Euro
EquivalentForeign
currency
in US\$Foreign
currency
in Peso

United States	Dollar	1.018745	1.000000	51.4240
Japan	Yen	0.008517	0.008360	0.4299
United Kingdom	Pound	1.591789	1.562500	80.3500
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130610	0.128207	6.5929
Switzerland	Franc	0.687876	0.675219	34.7225
Canada	Dollar	0.638271	0.626527	32.2185
Singapore	Dollar	0.579722	0.569055	29.2631
Australia	Dollar	0.541022	0.531067	27.3096
Bahrain	Dinar	2.702385	2.652661	136.4104
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271666	0.266667	13.7131
Brunei	Dollar	0.580647	0.569963	29.3098
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000110	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024198	0.023753	1.2215
UAE	Dirham	0.277391	0.272287	14.0021
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000842	0.0433
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.981600	50.4778
Argentina	Real	0.283773	0.278552	14.3243
Brazil	Real	0.330225	0.324149	16.6690
Denmark	Kroner	0.134612	0.132135	6.7949
India	Rupee	0.020975	0.020589	1.0588
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268127	0.263193	13.5344
Mexico	New Peso	0.104033	0.102119	5.2514
New Zealand	Dollar	0.467507	0.458905	23.5987
Norway	Kroner	0.133066	0.130618	6.7169
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017151	0.016835	0.8657
South Africa	Rand	0.097423	0.095630	4.9177
Sweden	Kroner	0.105730	0.103785	5.3370
Syria	Pound	0.019820	0.019455	1.0005
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030338	0.029780	1.5314
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000753	0.000739	0.0380

WHAT'S INSIDE

DOF chief's ma scored for scrap metal lobby / B6

PHILIPPINE shares closed at a fresh eight-month low yesterday after falling through a key support level in intra-day trade as sentiment was soured by weakness in US and regional markets.

Other Asian stocks also fell yesterday, many to their lows for 2002, as fears of a renewed US economic downturn grew and even the prospect of cuts in US interest rates offered little respite.

Wall Street recorded a third straight day of sharp losses—the Dow Jones industrial average lost 3.24 percent, the Nasdaq fell 3.36 percent, and the S&P 500 lost 3.43 percent—as a weak services sector report compounded economic outlook worries.

There was broad-based selling in the Philippine market but blue chips PLDT and Ayala Land Inc. took some of the heaviest losses as foreign investors unloaded the stocks due to jitters in other markets.

"Sentiment is being dragged not just by lack of direction in the local economy but also the poor performance of the US market and regionals," said Efren Cruz,

fund manager of The Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines.

The Philippine stock index fell 30.10 points or 2.7 percent at 1,085.21 points, the lowest level since November last year.

Turnover swelled to P409.82 million from Monday's P238.87 million. Losers were in a near three-to-one majority.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average ended morning trading down 2.27 percent at 9,484.84, just above its Feb. 7 year-low of 9,458.70, as fears of a double-dip US recession—two periods of recession separated by a brief upturn—hit exporters and technology stocks.

"We cannot help but shift money to defensive issues, those which are affected little by external factors," said Hiroshi Nishida, general manager at Mitsubishi

RP/ B2



A TRADER rests his chin on his hand at Hong Kong Stock Exchange as the Hong Kong stocks opened lower on Tuesday after another round of selling on Wall Street.

AP

BIR, Customs collections seen missing 2002 targets

By Clarissa S. Batino

lion this year.

The BIR has a collection target of P447.556 billion and Customs, P115.126 billion.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said that starting July, the DBM would only release funds based on the collections of the government.

Despite the expected shortfall in collection, Camacho stressed that the government would maintain its deficit target at P130 billion this year as he anticipated contributions from other sources like savings from lower interest payments and dividends from state-owned companies.

Based on estimates made by the economic team on the trend of the BIR and Customs collection in the first half, these targets would not be met. The shortfall from the two agencies this year would range from P31.33 billion to P54.33 billion.

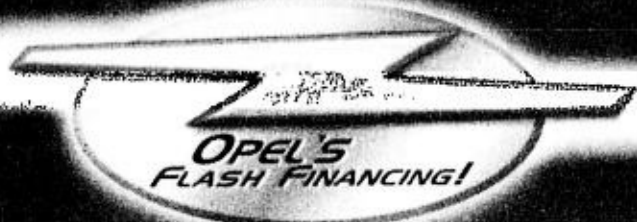
The budget deficit, a significant measure of the government's economic performance, exceeded the first semester target of P78.26 billion by about 150 percent and its deficit of P77.82 billion a year ago by 53.84 percent to P119.7 billion. The deficit trend, according to Boncodin, had continued in July although the gap narrowed.

"These collection numbers were just scenarios presented to the economic team. But I don't want to focus on the scenarios, I want to focus on the targets. These scenarios do not mean we are changing the targets because we are not," Camacho stressed.

Boncodin said the government has about P83 billion in funds that it could choose not to release even as she admitted that cutting expenditures might adversely affect growth.

"We cannot rule out that cutting spending would affect growth but we hope that the pri-

BIR/ B2



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PLDT seen to pursue US suit against First Pacific group

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. will pursue the civil case it filed against First Pacific Co. Ltd. despite the latter's submission of a copy of its agreement with the Gokongwei group to both the local and the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Sources from the PLDT group yesterday disclosed that the PLDT board and its legal advisers were studying all their options and that "the board may take whatever legal action is needed, at the appropriate time and if deemed necessary."

PLDT last month filed a case against First Pacific with a United States District Court in the Southern District of New York for a violation of US disclosure rules.

First Pacific was then compelled to submit a full copy of the memorandum of agreement it

signed with the Gokongwei group in June, which it later complied with.

Despite the submission, however, PLDT still held its ground and refused to allow First Pacific to complete the Gokongwei transaction, which would form a \$925-million joint venture owning a 24.47-percent stake in PLDT.

First Pacific continued to pursue the transaction and even proposed a five-point plan that would facilitate a due diligence on PLDT by the Gokongwei group.

The PLDT board, led by chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco and president Manuel V. Pangilinan, rejected the proposal, saying it could not allow a due diligence as the Gokongweis could use information obtained from PLDT as a weapon against it when the deal failed to push through.

"What happens if, after the

Gokongweis conduct a full due diligence, they just tell First Pacific, 'sorry, we don't want to do that deal'? Our competitor walks away with all the sensitive and crucial information about PLDT, its strategies, plans and programs, and they will use this to compete against us," a PLDT executive said.

The Gokongweis' flagship company, JG Summit Holdings Inc., holds a controlling stake in Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc., the country's second largest landline provider and PLDT's direct competitor.

"Public statements made by top officers of JG Summit Holdings Inc. that if the deal does not push through, they will use the money to create a war chest for Digital and compete head on with PLDT was seriously taken as patent threats by both the board and management of PLDT," the source added.

He said these statements reinforced the PLDT board members' belief that First Pacific's decision to transfer control of PLDT to the Gokongweis would be detrimental to the interest of the company and its stakeholders.

The deal would only be beneficial to First Pacific, he added.

The PLDT official said the board's rejection of First Pacific's five-point plan led to a "dead end" for its bid to turn over control of the company to the Gokongweis.

"The five-point plan is a clear admission of First Pacific's inability to execute this deal contrary to their earlier pronouncements that 'this is a done deal, it is legally binding, that they are progressing significantly,'" he said.

Up to now, the PLDT board remained firm in its resolve not to allow any employee or adviser to Digital or JG Summit to gain access to PLDT records.

Gov't presses Lucio Tan on buyback of PAL shares

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT and five of its financial institutions have asked Lucio Tan's companies—Fortune Tobacco Corp. and Asia Brewery Inc.—to settle the P2-billion put option obligation of Philippine Air Lines that expired last May 7.

In its second demand letter sent to PAL last week, the government gave the Tan companies until the end of the month to settle the obligation. Otherwise, the government warned that "it would be constrained to take appropriate actions to protect its interests."

The government sent a demand letter to PAL in May, asking that it be paid the P2 billion after the administration and the financial institutions decided to exercise their right to sell last May 7 under an agreement forged six years ago.

Tan had named Fortune Tobacco and Asia Brewery as guarantors when it signed the put-option agreement with the government and five state-owned financial groups.

The two Tan companies agreed to "irrevocably and unconditionally" buy the shares of the government in PAL.

The agreement was signed in April 1996 requiring the Tan group to buy at P5 per share the remaining shares of the state in the airline firm after six years.

The government had been consolidating its actions against PAL through the Office of the Solicitor General. This Friday, the government would send a reply to the case filed last July 23 by the Lucio Tan group of companies before the Makati regional trial court.

The state agencies are the Government Service Insurance System with 1.37 percent, Landbank with 0.69 percent, Development Bank of the Philippines, the AFP Retirement Service Benefits System with 0.31 percent, and Philippine National Bank with 0.46 percent.

The Lucio Tan group filed a civil case before the Makati RTC, invoking Article 1267 of the Civil Code saying that a company may be released from its obligations when honoring these would be too difficult.

Companies which filed the case were Ascot Holdings and Equities, Cube Factor and Equities, Sierra Holdings and Equities, Network Holdings and Equities, and Pol Holdings Inc. The five used to own 50.04 percent of PR Holdings Inc., the company that used to own PAL before its equity structure was reconstituted.

PAL registered a net profit of P984 million from April to June, its highest quarterly earnings in its 61-year history. The profits were more than twice the P457.7 million that the flag carrier earned in the previous fiscal year ending March 2002.

RP, Asian . . .

From page B1

Trust Asset Management.

"We're fleeing from exporters, including high-tech."

Stock markets in Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea—which all hit year-lows on Monday—extended their losses, with Taiwan's woes exacerbated by rising tensions with China after President Chen Shui-bian's weekend call for a vote on independence.

The TAIEX was down 0.36 percent, with government-linked funds stepping to prop up the market after early losses neared 3 percent. The TAIEX lost 5.78 percent on Monday, after Chen said China and Taiwan were separate countries.

Australia also posted a 2002 low yesterday, the S&P/ASX 200 down 1.55 percent to 2,962.6, with mining stocks hit hard by fears of falling demand.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng was also down over one percent, but better-than-expected first half results from HSBC Holdings—the largest stock on the index—helping to temper the losses.

But the US dollar firmed as traders worried about how a US slowdown would hurt other countries—a particular problem for Asia, where many export-dependent nations rely heavily on US demand.

US Treasuries also rallied as investors sought a haven to protect their capital, helped by speculation that the US Federal Reserve would soon embark on a new round of rate cuts.

"With the growing risk of ongoing sub-par growth and rising unemployment—even a double-dip recession—the case for further Fed easing is becoming compelling," said Rory Robertson, Macquarie Bank's interest rate strategist in New York. **Reuters**

11 OUT OF TOP 20 Local brokers dominate July stock trades

By Doris C. Dumlaog

LOCAL brokerage houses led by ATR Kim Eng Securities dominated stock trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange in July marking the first time in many months that local firms outnumbered their foreign counterparts in the top 20 list.

PSE data showed that local brokerage firms led by ATR Kim Eng Securities accounted for 11 of the top 20 slots in terms of value turnover for July with ATR getting a share of 9.7 percent of the P17.6 billion worth of shares traded for the month.

Foreign brokers, however, accounted for the bulk of the trades for the first seven months with ING Barings leading the pack, followed by Deutsche Regis, UBS Warburg, JP Morgan and Philippine Equity Partners. ATR Kim Eng got the 6th slot.

Local brokers that followed ATR Kim Eng in the July rankings were SB Equities Inc., a unit of Security Bank Corp. and Philippine Equities Partners Inc., which was formed following the management buyout of Merrill Lynch

Securities Philippines Inc.

Foreign brokers that were included in the top 20 list were UBS Warburg Sec. (Phils) Inc. (4th); Deutsche Regis Partners Inc. (5th); ING Barings Securities (Phils) Inc. (7th); and, CLSA Philippines Inc. (8th).

Other local brokers in the July rankings were BPI Securities Corp. (6th); Asiasec Equities Inc. (9th); Papa Securities Corp. (10th); Abacus Securities Corp. (12th); PCGI Securities Brokers Corp. (15th); Lucky Securities (16th); Angping & Associates Securities Inc. (19th); and Westlink Global Equities Inc. (20th).

Completing the top 20 list are foreign brokers ABN AMRO Asia Sec. (Phils) Inc. (11th); JP Morgan Securities Philippines Inc. (13th); DBP-Daiwa Securities SMBC Phils. Inc. (14th); KGI Securities (Phils) Inc. (17th); and DBS Vickers Securities (Phils) Inc. (18th).

DBS Vickers recently announced that it would shut down its Philippine operations by the end of the month, making it the first foreign broker to leave the local market this year due to shrinking market volumes.

LTDI posts P403-M profit in Q2

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc., the hard liquor manufacturing unit of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., posted a 62-percent growth in profit to P403 million in the second quarter compared to the same period a year ago.

LTDI said in a statement yesterday that the profit growth resulted from the firm's reduced debt level, improved sales and operational efficiencies and successful efforts to penetrate markets in southern Philippines.

The improved profit picture in the second half brought the company's six-month earnings to P814 million, up by 48 percent from year-ago levels.

LTDI's operating income for the second quarter expanded by 11 percent to P688 million, bringing the six-month level to P1.4 billion or 8 percent higher from a year ago.

Using part of the proceeds from LTDI's sale of its non-liquor business and employing the cash generated from the improvement in working capital, debt levels were reduced and interest expenses were cut by 62 percent, contributing P300 million to its net income.

LTDI also reported that efforts to streamline operations allowed it to boost operations

in Southern Philippines, where volume jumped by 77 percent in the first half on the back of stronger sales of Ginebra, San Miguel Blue and Vito Kulafu.

"Reduced direct selling, streamlining of sales operations and reconfiguration of supply/destination points achieved significant results in trimming down selling and distribution expenses for the whole liquor business," LTDI said.

LTDI's working capital improved to P3.2 billion in the first semester from P6 billion a year ago following efforts to lower trade inventory and increase efficiency in credit and collection. The age of receivables was also reduced to 47 days as of end-June from 71 days a year ago.

Meanwhile, LTDI also noted that it had so far repurchased 48.7 million of its own shares valued at P1.6 billion from the open market as of July 25 as part of its buyback program.

"The company's share buyback program further enhanced shareholder value. With renewed interest in the stock, LTDI share prices rose to a high of P34 in the first semester from a low of P21.75," it said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, August 06, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.25	16.25	15.75	15.75	68,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	42.5	41.5	42	611,500
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	3,520
Citizens Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	29	29	679,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	34	34	380,200
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	2,100
Security Bank Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	17,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	9,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.32	1.1	1.32	3,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.44	0.35	0.44	80,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1190	1190	1170	1170	520
Sun Life Financial Serv.	890	890	880	880	1,250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.6200	0.62	0.59	0.59	1,410,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	500	500	495	495	7,600
Ipeople Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
Infon Tech Inc.	0.037	0.037	0.033	0.033	14,600,000
ISIM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.025	0.025	7,100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	297.5	297.5	277.5	282.5	590,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	6,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.5	19.5	19	19	7,700
Manila Electric Co. B	27.5	27.5	26	26	555,500
Petrone Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.62	1.66	5,693,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.95	0.9	0.9	45,320,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	1,627,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.66	0.7	0.66	0.69	100,000
William, Gothong & Aboliz	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.45	339,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	48,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12	11.75	11.75	302,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	7,600
RPM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46.5	46	46.5	86,400
San Miguel Corp. B	52	52	51	51	271,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	3,185,000
Aboliz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.28	2.28	792,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	45,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.38	2.38	12,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	105,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	7,700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Ebcom Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	3,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	11.25	11.25	10.5	10.75	596,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	800,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	10,000
Ionics Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	7,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	133,000
Medco Holdings	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.62	0.62	3,140,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,120,000
Musico Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,000,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,440,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22	21.75	21.75	47,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	8,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.6	7,499,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	250,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	1,600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	550,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.86	1.86	2,530,000
Fill-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	600,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.135	0.15	0.135	0.15	1,290,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	3,421,000
UrbanCorp. Realty Dev. Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	200,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	1,380,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	630,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	19,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,200,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,600,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.003	205,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	300,000
SHARES					
Banks & Fin Svc	1,857,990				63,733,220.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	151,122,220				275,029,710.00
PRO	18,140,000				68,747,150.00
Mining	24,810,000				1,145,650.00

**RP may
reduce
T-bill
issues**

NATIONAL Treasurer Sergio Edeza said yesterday the Treasury may reduce the size of its fortnightly treasury bill offer to P5 billion from the current P9 billion.

The Treasury department plans to implement the reduced offer starting in the fourth quarter this year.

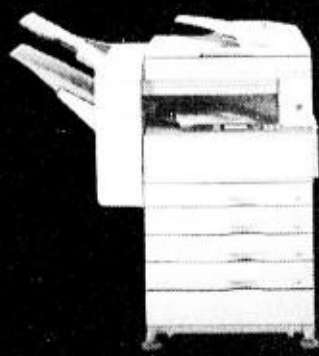
"We're looking to cut T-bill auctions in the last quarter. Whatever we reduce in the bills, we will increase in the bonds," he told reporters.

The move would aim to extend the maturity of debt given the low interest rates and to address the market's appetite for bonds, Edeza said.

Although treasury bill rates inched up at Monday's auction, debt dealers said the market was still looking for a continued general decline in domestic interest rates.

They said bonds still offer a premium and remain attractive for banks awash with cash following reserve requirement rate cuts and with sluggish loan demand due to the weak economy.

Reuters

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The National Food Authority (NFA) is inviting all palay Farmers' Organizations (FOs), Farmers' Cooperatives (FCs), Farmers' Associations (FAs) and Federation of Palay Farmers' Group (FPFGs) to participate in the distribution of imported rice under the "FARMERS as DISTRIBUTORS" (FAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture -- National Food Authority/Philippine International Trading Corporation.

All interested parties are advised to accomplish and submit a Letter of Intent (LOI), sample of which is shown as Exhibit 1, within five (5) days after the last day of publication, to the NFA Provincial Offices in their respective areas.

For details, they may coordinate with the nearest NFA Office in their respective areas. For Metro Manila, they may directly visit or call our NCR Office located at United Nations Avenue, Paco, Manila, with telephone nos. 563-9451, 563-8717 and 563-9454.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R.A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI - August 7, 9 & 11, 2002)

Exhibit 1

LETTER OF INTENT

LOI# _____

I/We _____, with business address _____

(name of cooperative)

at _____ would like to participate in the Farmers As Distributor (FAD), Program of the Department of Agriculture -- National Food Authority (NFA) / Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC). Specifically, we would like to avail of _____ bags of rice to be withdrawn in _____

(quality)

from _____ to _____, 2002

(withdrawal point)

(withdrawal period)

The NFA however, reserves the right to adjust the volume to be allocated to the farmers' group and likewise, the withdrawal points depending upon what is available and other factors.

Attached are the following documents to support the approval of our application.

1. Certified Photocopy of Certificate of Registration from _____ dated _____
2. Financial Statement as of _____, duly audited by an external Accountant/Auditor.
3. Original copy of Board Resolution # _____ dated _____ series of _____ signifying our intention to participate in the program and authorizing _____ and/or _____ as our representative to transact business with NFA.

President/Chairman

To be filled-up by NFA

Date/Time Received: _____

By: _____

Checklist

- ☐ Certified Photocopy of Certificate of Registration

- ☐ Audited Financial Statement

- ☐ Original Copy of Board Resolution -- to participate and to authorize representative

- ☐ Grains Business License

- ☐ Retailing

- ☐ Wholesaling

- ☐ Warehousing

- ☐ Transporting

Basic Information

- Allowable Volume in bags for purchase per month _____

(not to exceed 5,000)

- Networth (bags equivalent) _____

Certified Correct:

Provincial Market Development Officer

Provincial Accountant

Provincial Registration & Licensing Officer

Provincial Operations Officer/ Assistant Provincial Manager

Approved/Disapproved: _____

Provincial Manager / Officer-In-Charge

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the following blank Provisional Receipts duly registered under the name of **CRISDY-NA DRUG CORPORATION** were lost on August 2, 2002, and are now deemed void:

P.R. No. 09-3001- 093050

Customers, vendors, business partners and the public are hereby warned not to accept the above mentioned Provisional Receipts from any party or entity.

(PDI--Aug 7, 2002)

*****OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATE WHO CAN HELP US WITH THE FOLLOWING*****

ACCOUNT QUALITY SUPERVISOR**Qualifications:**

- Male, less than 35 years old
- Graduate of any business-related course
- Must have feasible achievement in production improvement
- Must have at least 5 years experience in quality control
- Have a thorough knowledge in Quality Engineering and Management
- Familiar with problem Solving and Failure Analysis

Requirements:

- Updated Resumé with recent photo
- Diploma, Transcript of Records
- Birth Certificate
- Employment Certificate

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:

Wistron

Wistron Int'l. Corp. (Phil.) Corp.
Building 122B, Aragon Highway,
Cebu P.O. Box 100, Cebu City, Philippines
Telephone: (631) 412-1211/1212
Facsimile: (631) 412-2321

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY**GENERAL ACCOUNTING STAFF**

Male/ Female, not more than 28 years old; Accounting major graduate; with at least 2 years work experience. Apply personally (with complete credentials).

Personnel Department

Abiva Building

851 G. Araneta Avenue

1113 Quezon City

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THE JOINT VENTURE CONTRACT DATED NOVEMBER 14, 1995 OF MARCBILT REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WITH RHODORA MOJICA, THE OWNER OF THE 50,000 SQM. ST. JULIANNE HOMES, MUNTING MAPINO, NAIC, CAVITE WAS FORMALLY CANCELLED BY SAID OWNER UNDER HER VERIFIED NOTICE TO RESCIND DATED JULY 14, 2001 BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF SAID MARCBILT REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORP. TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS THEREOF AND THE ONGOING DEVELOPMENT ON THE LOT BY LGTM CORPORATION IS BY VIRTUE OF A NEW JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT IT ENTERED WITH SAID OWNER, RHODORA MOJICA.

SALVADOR, BASCONCILLO & ASSOCIATES
8/F ANTEL GLOBAL CORPORATE CENTER,
JULIA VARGAS AVE., ORTIGAS CENTER,
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(PDI--Aug. 7, 2002)

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Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Special Accounts Management Department Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS.

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LTY-152	38 Road 7, Project 6, Quezon City	403.7 m ² residential lot (TCT No. N-234441) with building	P 6,768,300.00
LTY-143	2072 Anonas Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila	300.2 m ² residential lot (TCT No. 245737)	P 3,602,400.00
MED-58	No. 4 Olive Street, SSS Village, Concepcion, Marikina City	242 m ² residential lot (TCT No. 316365) with buildings and improvements	P 773,800.00
BATANGAS			
2LAO-08	Bo. Munting Tubig, Ibaan	19,238 m ² two (2) agr. lots (TCT Nos. T-111242 and T-111243) with piggery buildings and improvements	P 6,457,800.00
2LAO-06	Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City	738 m ² two (2) residential lots (TCT No. T-133022 and T-132774) with buildings and improvements	P 5,607,200.00
2LAO-05	Along 3.0 meters road - right-of-way at Poblacion 3, Nasugbu	3,827 m ² interior residential lot (TCT No. T-89931)	P 3,827,000.00
BULACAN			
MED-123	No. 402, Bo. Tangos, Ballwag	240 m ² residential lot (TCT No. T-128269) with building and improvements	P 371,100.00
RIZAL			
MGT-121	Jasmine Street, Nieves Hills, Lakeview Subdivision, San Isidro, Angono	248 m ² residential lot (TCT No. 616234)	P 347,200.00
CHATELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
LTY-148	Dalaruan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	MV "Super 85", an 85-hp motorized passenger ferry vessel, twin engine, Catamaran type, capable of carrying up to 185 persons with machinery and navigational equipment.	P 20,221,200.00
MBL-165	Back of Manila Film Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City	One (1) non-propelled deck-loading barge (partly submerged), all steel welded construction. Gross tonnage of 3,097 tons.	P 7,574,000.00
LRD 140a-i	Pinatubo Bricks Manufacturing, Bgy. Estrada, Capas, Tarlac	Various brick making machinery and equipment (in dismantled condition)	P 6,900.00 to P126,900.00 per unit
2LAO 07a-k	Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City	Various chattels for veterinary products manufacturing	P 21,800.00 to P427,500.00 per unit

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from SAM's Acquired Assets Units. For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M; and
818-9511 loc. 1429 for Code starting with 2LAO.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - August 7, 2002)

WARNING NOTICE

For and on behalf of our client, HELLA KG HUECK & CO., a corporation organized and existing under the Laws of Germany, with its principal Office at Rixbecker, Strasse 75, 59552 Lippstadt, Germany, the right holder and therefore sole proprietor in the Philippines of the "HELLA" trademark registration number No. 26241, dated 13 September 1978 (hereinafter referred as "TRADEMARK").

The trademark is the exclusive property of our client, applied to and used in respect of accessories and parts for motor vehicles and including HELLA Relays, HELLA Super Tone-Horn, HELLA Disc Horn and HELLA Keong Horn.



It has been discovered that there are many counterfeit products in the Philippine market, to which the "HELLA" trademark have been unlawfully applied. We hereby give notice that stern legal actions will be taken against any person who uses the trademark or any trademark having similarity in principle or in its entirety or any colorable imitation of the goods bearing the trademark for same kinds of goods, or who otherwise infringes the rights of the trademark, including but not limited to manufacturing, selling, distributing, exporting, importing, or by keeping in stock of the counterfeit products.

The legal actions will include claims for damages, confiscation of counterfeit products, imprisonment and/or fines, as stipulated in Section 155 and 168 in Relation to Section 170 of Republic Act 8293.

We hereby give notice to all parties concerned to immediately cease, manufacturing, selling, distributing, exporting, and/or importing and to withdraw the counterfeit products from the market for destruction within **9 (nine) days** as of today. Our client also wishes to extend this warning to legitimate importers, dealers, distributors and the public/consumers in general, to be aware of counterfeit products.

HELLA KG HUECK & CO. PINKERTON CONSULTING SERVICES INC. PHILIPPINES
Rixbecker, Strasse 75
59552 Lippstadt
Germany

2/F Corinthian Plaza Building
121 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village
Makati City 1226

Attn.: John F. Walker

DOF chief's ma scored for scrap metal lobby

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JUNKYARD dealers have denounced efforts by the mother of Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho and an Estrada crony to prevent them from selling their products abroad and to fix the prices of scrap metal.

Documents released yesterday by the Scrap Collector and Recycler Association of the Philippines, or Scrap, showed that Philippine Metro Manila Linis-Ganda Inc. executive vice president Leonarda Camacho and Philippine Steelmakers Association president

Jeffrey Ng had signed a memorandum of agreement that would force scrap dealers to first sell their stock to local scrap users before looking for buyers abroad at P3.80 to P4.80 per kilogram for the next five years.

Scrap representative Aquino Dy refused to sign the agreement, saying it was disadvantageous to scrap dealers.

The Philippine Steel Makers Association led by Cathay Pacific Steel Co. (Capasco) earlier sought a ban on scrap metal exports to force junk dealers to sell their goods only to local players.

At least 200 junkyard firms under Scrap opposed the ban, saying it would prevent them from exporting scrap metal and would only allow steel companies like Capasco to dictate prices.

Scrap insists that junk dealers get more from scrap metal buyers from South Korea and Japan, who buy at P6 per kilogram, than from steel firms here.

Local companies not only pay less but also pay longer, apart from being very picky, it said.

Junk dealers have complained that they are forced to wait for up to six months to get their money,

and that local steel makers do not buy galvanized iron sheets and tin cans.

Dy, Scrap's representative, said the agreement that Linis-Ganda and PSA were pushing constituted price fixing and illegal restraint of trade.

He said this was the reason why the Department of Trade and Industry decided to take more time to review the legal implications of the deal despite intense lobbying by Linis-Ganda's Camacho and PSA's Ng.

Camacho maintains that the memorandum of agreement will

ensure adequate supply of scrap metal to help sustain the operations of steel manufacturers who have been getting fewer scrap metal from junk dealers.

Scrap metal sold abroad will only be converted into steel products and re-exported to the country at high prices, she said.

She said the 19-year-old Linis-Ganda—a group of 572 junk shops and 1,200 cart pushers—found the terms of the memorandum fair to scrap sellers.

Scrap users have committed to buy their entire ferrous scrap requirement of 800,000 metric tons

a year from scrap sellers to be paid within 14 days from delivery.

Linis-Ganda has been tasked to monitor or oversee the implementation of the agreement.

Scrap's Dy countered that a ban on the export of scrap metal would hurt—not benefit—junk dealers whom Camacho was supposedly protecting since the sale price would be dictated by buyers, specifically Ng's Capasco and other billet makers such as Stronghold Steel Industries Corp., Amalgamated Ironworks Inc. and Elegant Steel Corp.

Landco returns to profitability

LANDCO Pacific Corp., a unit of real estate firm Metro Pacific Corp., returned to profitability in the first half of the year, chalking up some P16 million in net income from a net loss of P54 million a year earlier.

In a statement issued yesterday, Landco attributed its almost 130-percent growth in profit to its successful implementation of a comprehensive debt reduction program, including the full redemption of convertible bonds issued to its parent firm as well as other third-party loans.

It added that sales of existing real estate projects also boosted its income.

Abigail L. Ho

SEC readies criminal charges vs Phil-Asia Care

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is preparing a criminal complaint against Phil-Asia Care Plans Inc. for allegedly selling pre-need plans without a license.

"We want to take stronger measures by filing a criminal case," SEC compliance and enforcement department director Jose Tomas Syquia told reporters on Monday.

Securities regulators ordered Phil-Asia Care to stop selling pre-need plans over a month ago, but the company apparently chose to defy this order, according to Syquia. It did not even bother to ask the SEC to lift a cease-and-desist order against it, he added.

He said the SEC would move to revoke Phil-Asia Care's corpo-

rate license.

The SEC has also asked the League of Mayors of the Philippines to help it check Phil-Asia Care's operations, Syquia said.

Most of the company's operations are reportedly in provinces outside the capital region.

Syquia disclosed that Phil-Asia victimized at least 15,000 indi-

viduals in Davao province alone.

The SEC's non-traditional and instruments department allowed Phil-Asia Care to service only its existing plan-holders as of Dec. 28, 1993.

The company currently has no salesman's permit or authority to sell pre-need plans. **Elena R. Torrijos**

It's up to Congress, Roxas says of bid to split DTI

TRADE Secretary Manuel Roxas II has shrugged off a proposal by businessmen to split the Department of Trade and Industry into two separate agencies that will focus on consumer and industry concerns.

Roxas told reporters that the proposal should be forwarded to Congress.

The trade department will only forward its position on the issue if it has become the subject of a congressional bill, he said.

Federation of Philippine Industries director Henry Leung earlier proposed the restoration of a "Department of Industry" that would focus solely on pushing for the in-

terests of the manufacturing sector.

Leung said the new agency would focus on safeguarding all existing industries, rationalize their tariff structure, take charge in mediating all issues affecting industries, promote "buy-Philippine-made" movements, negotiate for the deferment of tariff

commitments and allow the private sector to take an active role in trade negotiations.

The proposal was made in the face of the ebbing fortunes of manufacturing concerns in the country, which businessmen blamed on the DTI's bias for consumer interests against industry interests.

House supports call for tariff cut moratorium

THE HOUSE special committee on globalization is set to adopt measures on a planned tariff cut in support of labor, farmer and industry groups opposing the Common Effective Preferential Tariff of the Asean Free Trade Area and the Neda-imposed unilateral tariff reduction program.

In a public hearing last week, the special committee's chair, Rep. Herminio Teves, said he would introduce measures that would temporarily hold back plans to bring down next year tariffs on a wide range of imported products covered by the CEPT.

ADB voices concern over RP's pension, insurance schemes for elderly

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE ASIAN Development Bank has raised concerns over the sustainability of public pension and social insurance schemes for the elderly in some developing countries, including the Philippines.

In a report on population and human resource trends and challenges released yesterday, the Manila-based ADB said develop-

ing and operating effective and reliable programs for the elderly was an enormous challenge for its developing member countries.

This comes on the heels of reports that, in the Philippines, the state-controlled Social Security System is fast running out of funds.

The ADB said the Philippines belonged to a group of countries that were currently relying in

whole or in part on social insurance schemes, such as transfer programs, that provided benefits to the elderly by taxing the earnings of those who were working.

This group includes Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Korea, Pakistan and Taiwan.

"These programs are politically attractive in the short run because

generous benefits can be offered at a relatively low per worker cost when there are relatively few retirees," the ADB said.

"However, as population aging sets in, these programs can be sustained only if the government cuts benefits to retirees or raises taxes on workers. After a point, either option is politically difficult," it added.

The ADB said another concern

was that large-scale transfer programs had serious "disincentive effects" that could undermine economic growth.

This means that incentives to work are lessened through increased payroll taxes and incentives to save are reduced through workers' knowledge that they will receive large transfers after they retire, it explained.

The ADB said, however, that

despite their drawbacks, transfer programs were providing an effective means of reducing poverty among the elderly and protecting them against investment risks.

Many social insurance programs have disability components that provide necessary insurance for those who become disabled during their working years, it added.

Doris C. Dumlaog

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IMF may cut US economic growth forecast

THE IMF said Monday it expected to cut its US economic growth forecasts as the plunging stock market raised a new threat to the recovery.

"While the outlook is still broadly favorable, the downside risks have intensified," the International Monetary Fund said in a staff report after annual talks with the US economic authorities.

IMF staff had envisaged real gross domestic product rising from 2.5 percent in 2002 to about 3.25 percent in 2003, the IMF said.

"However, recent data releases and other developments, including the sharp decline in equity prices in recent weeks, have exacerbated the downside risks to the outlook for both personal consumption and business investment," it said.

"The likelihood, therefore, is that downward revisions to the growth projections would be made in the context of the forthcoming World Economic Outlook (due for release in September)."

IMF directors said in an accompanying assessment that turbulent financial markets had increased the level of uncertainty surrounding the US economic outlook.

"Growth has already moderated from the rapid pace set in early 2002, but the recovery, although now likely to be weaker, is expected to be sustained as business investment rebounds, consumer spending continues at a solid pace, and productivity growth remains robust," they said.

"However, the recent weakness of equity markets, which has been exacerbated by corporate accounting scandals, could pose a risk by undermining consumer and business confidence."

The underlying strength of corporate profits and investment also remained uncertain, IMF directors said.

IMF bosses reiterated concerns about the bulging deficit in the US current account—a wide measure of trade in goods and services and financial income flows.

They conceded that most of the expansion of the US current account deficit, which amounted to \$112.5 billion in the January-March quarter alone, reflected the effects of foreign investment in the United States.

But they warned that the current account deficit would have to adjust at some point in the future.

IMF directors urged the US authorities to focus on disciplined fiscal policies, reforms of corporate governance and accounting and strengthened US leadership in trade and agricultural policies.

They expressed concern about the "considerable deterioration" in the medium term fiscal outlook. The White House has predicted a federal budget deficit of \$165 billion in the current year, with no return to surplus until 2005.

But IMF directors said the administration's medium-term projections "may be optimistic" considering the higher defense spending and risk of

lower-than-expected tax income.

On trade, they warned that the US leadership role in global trade may be undermined by the imposition of tariffs on imported steel to protect the domestic industry.

"In particular, they pointed to the recent safeguard action against steel imports, which is likely to impose significant costs, both domestically and abroad, and could weaken confidence in WTO (World Trade Organization) disciplines."

They also criticized a farm bill passed in May that envisages distributing about \$180 billion in subsidies to American farmers over 10 years.

"Directors viewed the subsidies contained in the recent farm bill as damaging from a domestic and international perspective," the report said. The IMF noted, however, that the United States was seeking to cut farm subsidies in global trade talks.

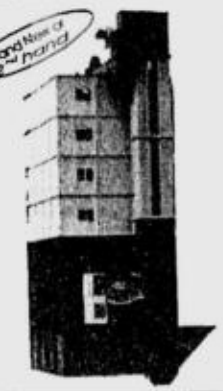
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Japan 2003/04 budget plan approval seen

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is due to win the go-ahead on Tuesday for a budget plan for next year that few economists expect will offer a remedy for the long stagnant economy or ballooning fiscal deficit.

The Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy (CEFP) is set to approve the fiscal 2003/04 budget guidelines later in the day, with Koizumi's cabinet signing off on them a day later to open the floodgate for budget requests from all the government arms.

The guidelines call for a 48.1-trillion yen (\$402 billion) ceiling for general expenditures, which is slightly more than the 47.5 trillion budgeted for the current fiscal year to next March, even though public works spending will be slashed by 3 percent and discretionary spending by 2 percent.

Economists said Koizumi had little choice but to take a middle-of-the-road approach, given an economy barely recovering from its worst post-war recession and the already huge fiscal deficit, but they said such a policy did little to improve prospects for either economic growth or fiscal reform.

"A likely slowdown in exports in the coming months means economic policy must be more focused on supporting growth but you can't afford to let deficits widen too much either," said Masaaki Kanno, chief economist at J.P. Morgan in Tokyo.

"So you need major surgery on the structure of the budget, but what we are seeing is a bit half-baked from that standpoint," Kanno said last year's budget talks were more dynamic, referring to Koizumi's decision first broadly to cut spending by five trillion yen and then put to two trillion yen back into priority areas.

"There was more focus on the substance last year," he said. "It seems it has reverted to a numbers game among bureaucrats and politicians this year."

Toshikimi Kaneki, an economist at Sumitomo Trust and Banking, said his impression was that the budget plan was conspicuously neutral to markets—not particularly growth-friendly but not too damaging in terms of increasing government debt.

Japan's public debt, at 140 percent of gross domestic product, is the biggest among industrial countries and credit rating agencies have said such debt load was unsustainable.

The 3-percent cut in public works spending is far less than a 10-percent drop for the current fiscal year to March. And natural increases in welfare and other mandatory outlays bring up the overall general spending.

Reuters

Sony drops 2.54% to nine-month low

TOKYO—Shares in Japan consumer electronics giant Sony Corp. dipped below 5,000 yen on Tuesday for the first time in nine months, dragged down by heavy selling by foreigners and concerns a US slowdown would hit overseas sales.

Sony shares closed 2.54 percent down at 4,980 yen, after falling to an intra-day low of 4,960 yen, their lowest level since Nov. 15, 2001. The benchmark Nikkei average shed 2.10 percent to 9,501.02.

"Sony is a core holding for foreign investors who own Japanese stocks so it is one of the first to be sold when they decide to reduce exposure," said Hajime Yagi, senior portfolio manager at Meiji Dresdner Asset Management.

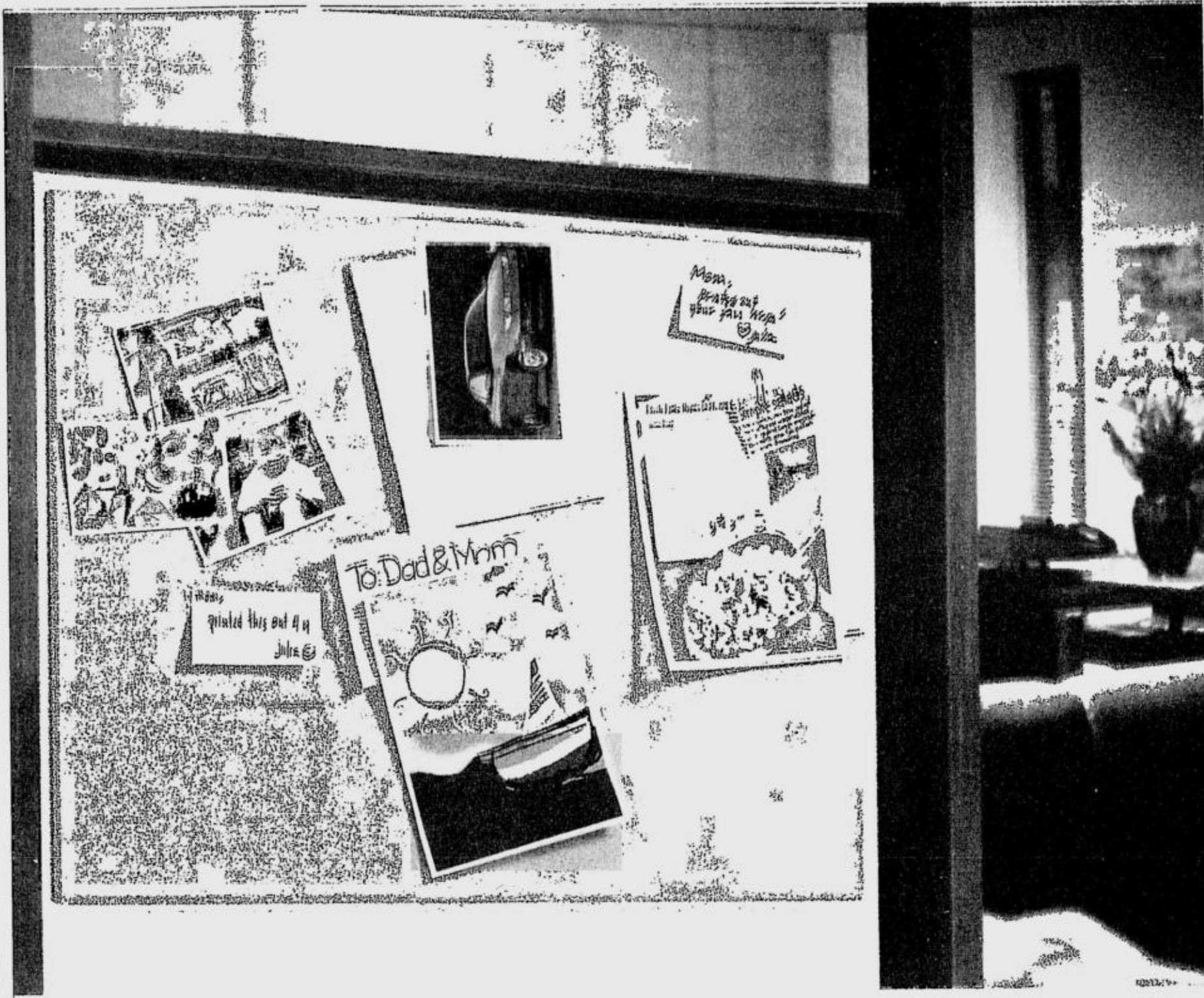
And in the past week, a slew of downbeat US economic data has rekindled fears of a "double-dip" recession in Japan's largest export partner, adding to worries that a slowdown in consumer spending would harm the earnings outlook for Japan's high-tech exporters.

"Psychological factors such as uncertainty over the US economy and the impact of a high yen are weighing on the stock," said Masahiro Ono, analyst at CSFB.

Concerns that a strengthening yen would dent its overseas sales have also weighed on the world's biggest consumer electronics maker, which is seen by analysts as far more dependent on sales to the United States than rivals such as Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd.

The yen has gained around 12 percent against the dollar since April 1. In late afternoon Tokyo trade the dollar was fetching 119.8 yen.

Reuters



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**Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 2002-07-004

**RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 (k) of R.A. 7638, otherwise known as the Department of Energy Act of 1992, in compliance with Executive Order No. 26 dated 7 October 1992, and in line with Department Special Order No. 2000-07-016, dated 13 July 2000, the following Rules of Practice and Procedure are hereby adopted and promulgated:

PART I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

RULE 1

Title, Definition, Scope and Construction

Section 1. **Title of Rules** - These Rules shall be known as the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Department of Energy.

Section 2. Definitions - For purposes of these Rules, the terms:

- "Department" shall refer to the Department of Energy.
- "Deregulation Act" shall refer to the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998".
- "Director" shall mean the Director of the Office of the Legal Counsel.
- "EIRA" shall refer to Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001."
- "Energy Act" shall refer to Republic Act No. 7638, the Department of Energy Act of 1992.
- "OLC" shall mean the Office of the Legal Counsel of the Department of Energy.
- "Public Service Act" shall refer to C.A. No. 146, as amended.
- "Rules" shall refer to these Rules.
- "Secretary" shall refer to the Secretary of Energy.

Section 3. Scope - These rules shall govern all pleadings, practice and procedure before the Department in all matters concerning inquiry, investigation, hearing, study and/or any other proceedings conducted by the Department in the performance of its functions. However, in the public interest and consistent with due process, the Department may, in any particular matter, except itself from these rules and apply such fair and reasonable procedures to assist the parties to obtain speedy disposition of cases.

These rules shall likewise cover application for the issuance of permits or other forms of authorization to entities involved in the supply and distribution of energy resources.

Section 4. Construction - These rules shall be liberally construed in order to protect and promote public interest and attain the objectives of the Public Service Act, the Energy Act, the Deregulation Act, the EIRA and any other law, statute, executive order or decree that is being, or may hereafter be, implemented by the Department in the most speedy and inexpensive disposition of cases. In the broader interest of justice and to avoid unnecessary delay, the Department may resort to summary proceedings in cases hereinafter provided.

Section 5. Suppletory Application of the Rules of Court of the Philippines - In the absence of any applicable provision in, and provided they are not inconsistent with these Rules, the pertinent provisions of the Revised Rules of Court of the Philippines may, in the interest of expeditious disposition of cases and whenever practicable and convenient, be applied by analogy or in a suppletory manner.

RULE 2

PARTIES

Section 1. Who may be a Party - Any person or group of persons whether natural or juridical, who may be affected by the decision to be rendered by the Department in a particular case may be a party and may appeal, and participate in the manner hereinafter provided.

Section 2. Applicant - An applicant is any person who applies with the Department for a permit for the operation of services involved in energy resource supply activities or who seeks any other form of authorization, to undertake any matter or business that is within the jurisdiction of the Department.

Section 3. Complainant - A complainant is any aggrieved person who files a complaint against another party for legal redress on matters within the jurisdiction of the Department.

Section 4. Petitioner - A petitioner is any person who files an application with the Department *ex parte*, or where there are no parties in opposition, praying for the exercise of the powers of the Department, for authority to do some act which requires the sanction of the Department.

Section 5. Respondent - A respondent is any person or party, who may or may not be a holder of a permit or other form of authorization to whom an order is issued by the Department to appear or give his explanation in writing, or who is otherwise summoned to answer any allegation, imputation or issue in any case, hearing or proceeding cognizable by the Department, or any person who may also be adversely or is otherwise affected by a complaint or petition.

Section 6. Oppositor - An oppositor is any person who interposes any objection against the approval of an application or petition.

RULE 3

PLEADINGS

Section 1. Pleading - The pleadings allowed by these Rules are the application, the complaint, the petition, the opposition, the answer, and such further pleadings as the Department may allow.

Section 2. Form of Pleading, Copies - All pleadings filed with the Department must be in triplicate and typewritten or printed on legal size bond paper and shall be in English. Every pleading shall contain the names and addresses of all the parties, the Department file number and designation of the pleading.

Section 3. Application - By means of an application or petition for permit or other forms of authorization, the applicant seeks for authorization or permission to undertake any matter within the power of the Department under the Public Service Act, the Energy Act, the Deregulation Act, the EIRA or any other law, statute, executive order or decree that is being, or may hereafter be, implemented by the Department, stating the ultimate facts on which the relief sought is based.

The Department will refer to the proper bureau or office the evaluation of the technical and financial qualifications of an applicant for a permit or other forms of authorization.

Section 4. Complaint - A complaint is a concise statement of the ultimate facts constituting the acts or matters complained of, and shall specify the relief sought. The names and addresses of the complainants and the respondents must be stated in the complaint, and whenever practicable, the date and place of the commission of the alleged act or omission complained of.

Section 5. Petition - A petition is an application made to the Department *ex parte* or where there are no parties in opposition, praying for the exercise of the powers of the Department for authority to do some act which requires the sanction of the Department.

Section 6. Opposition - An opposition is a pleading filed by an oppositor against the grant of an application or petition in which the oppositor states his right or interest affected by the application or petition and the ultimate facts constituting all his grounds for opposition.

Section 7. Answer - An answer is a pleading in which the respondent sets forth the defense upon which he relies. The respondent to whom an order is issued by the Department to show cause or against whom a complaint or petition is filed, shall file an answer within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the order, complaint or petition.

Section 8. Verification - All pleadings filed with the Department must be verified and accompanied by such documents as would reasonably tend to establish *prima facie* the truth of the factual allegations thereof.

Section 9. Service - Service may be by personal delivery or by registered mail, properly addressed to each party, together with all annexes attached thereto. All pleadings and motions submitted to the Department for filing must show proof of service thereof upon all parties to the case.

Section 10. Service upon Parties Represented by Counsel - When any party is represented by a counsel, service shall be made to his counsel of record.

Section 11. Contents of Pleadings - All pleadings filed with the Department must state clearly and categorically the ultimate facts upon which the pleader relies. Pleadings shall contain a prayer for the principal relief sought and may also add a general prayer for such further or other reliefs as may be deemed just and equitable.

Section 12. Amendments - Any modification or supplement to an application, complaint, petition or other pleadings shall be deemed as an amendment and must comply with the formal requirements of pleadings as mentioned in these rules.

Section 13. Amendment when Allowed - Amendments may be made as a matter of right at any time before any responsive pleading is filed and, thereafter, only with leave of the Department.

Section 14. Defect of Form - No defect in the form of any pleading allowed to be filed under these Rules will prejudice the pleader; however, the Department may direct amendments or require the submission of additional affidavits or supporting documents.

Section 15. Filing Fees - The Treasury Division of the Administrative Services Unit of the Department shall receive, collect or take the following fees:

- For filing a complaint - P10,000.00;
- For filing an appeal - P10,000.00;
- For certified copies of any paper, record, judgment - P10.00 per page;
- For filing an application for the grant of permit or other form of authorization to construct, install, own, operate and maintain pipeline system to transport energy resources - P10.00 per meter of pipeline.

RULE 4

MOTIONS IN GENERAL

Section 1. Scope & Contents - Every application for any procedural or interlocutory ruling or relief may be made through a motion. Motions shall state the relief sought and the grounds therefor and, if necessary, shall be accompanied by supporting affidavits and documents. Motions shall be in writing and copies thereof shall be served upon all parties at least three (3) days before the hearing thereof. All written motions shall specify the date and time for the hearing thereof.

Section 2. Provisional Permit or Authorization - Motions praying for the issuance of a provisional permit or other form of authorization to operate must be in writing and accompanied by affidavit(s) of merit and other supporting documents showing the necessity of the relief prayed for, together with proof of service to the other party. Such motions shall be governed by Rule 15 hereof.

PART II - PROCEDURE IN APPLICATIONS

RULE 5

APPLICATION

Section 1. How Commenced - Any proceeding the object of which is to obtain a permit or any form of authorization under the Public Service Act, the Energy Act, the Deregulation Act, the EIRA and/or any other law, statute, executive order or decree that is being, or may hereafter be, implemented by the Department shall be commenced by the filing of the corresponding application.

Section 2. Contents - The application shall contain a concise statement of the service proposed or permit or authorization applied for, and the ultimate facts that would qualify or entitle the applicant to the grant of the permit or authorization. When the application is predicated on a permit or other form of authorization, sale, lease, mortgage or any other contract, such permit or authorization or contract shall be impleaded in the application by alleging in substance its salient provisions and appending to the application a copy of the permit or authorization, contract or pertinent document.

RULE 6

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Section 1. Issuance of the Notice - After the filing of the application, it shall be docketed, and the hearing officer/s duly designated by the Department shall issue a notice that such application has been filed with the Department and furnish the list of affected parties, if any, to the applicant.

Section 2. Publication and Service - The applicant shall cause the aforesaid notice, at his own expense, to be published once in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines at least ten (10) calendar days before the date of the proceeding; provided, that if an application covers only one (1) region, publication in the local newspaper circulated within that region is sufficient. The applicant shall also serve copies of the notice, with copies of the application, to the affected parties, as furnished by the Department.

RULE 7

OPPOSITION

Section 1. Contents - Within ten (10) calendar days from receipt by the affected party of the notice referred to in Section 1 Rule 6 hereof, a written opposition, not a motion to dismiss, may be filed against an application with copy served upon the applicant, in which the oppositor shall state concisely his right of interest affected by the application and the ultimate facts constituting all his grounds for opposition.

PART III - PROCEDURE IN COMPLAINTS AND PETITIONS

RULE 8

COMPLAINTS & PETITIONS

Section 1. How Commenced - Any action, the object of which is to subject a holder of a permit or authorization or any person operating without authority from the Department to any penalty that may be imposed, or other measure that may be taken in the public interest by the Department for violation by such holder or any person of the provisions of the Public Service Act, the Energy Act, the Deregulation Act, the EIRA or any other law, statute, executive order or decree that is being, or may hereafter be, implemented by the Department, or the terms and conditions of his certificate or any order, decision or regulations of the Department shall be commenced by the filing of a complaint or petition.

Section 2. Sufficiency of Complaint or Petition - A complaint or a petition is sufficient if it contains the name of the complainant or offended party, the name of the respondent, a reference, whenever practicable, to the provisions of the law, statute, executive order or decree being implemented by the Department or the permit or authorization, order, decision or regulation violated; the acts or omissions complained of as constituting the offense, and the date and place of the commission of the offense.

Section 3. Separate Allegations - Whenever two or more offenses are charged in one (1) complaint or petition, each offense must be separately alleged.

RULE 9

MOTU PROPRIO ACTIONS

Section 1. Institution of Action by the Department - The Department may *motu proprio* initiate an action or inquiry against any person or entity when so required by law, public or national interest, and/or in its exercise of any of the powers vested upon it. In the exercise thereof, the Department may commence such hearing or inquiry by an order to show cause, setting forth the grounds for such order.

Section 2. Other Instances - When the basis of a *motu proprio* action is a violation of Department orders, rules or regulations, the order shall allege with definiteness and clarity, the violation and also the range or extent of the sanction that may be imposed should the violation be substantiated.

RULE 10

ANSWER

Section 1. Answer - Within a period of ten (10) calendar days from receipt of a *motu proprio* order or a copy of the petition or complaint, the respondent shall file an answer whether admitting or denying the material allegations or facts set forth in said *motu proprio* order, petition or complaint, or setting forth the reason why respondent cannot admit or deny said allegations. The pleader must state the facts and law upon which he relies for his defense with definiteness and clarity.

RULE 11

MOTION TO DISMISS

Section 1. Grounds - No motion to dismiss shall be entertained unless such motion is incorporated in the answer of the respondent under any of the following grounds:

- The facts alleged in the complaint or *motu proprio* order do not constitute a violation of the Department's rules and regulations or do not entitle the complainant or petitioner to the relief sought;
- The Department has no jurisdiction over the nature of the case or controversy;
- The applicant has not complied with the jurisdictional requirements of an application.

PART IV - PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT

RULE 12

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

Section 1. Pre-Hearing Conference - After the answer or the opposition has been filed, the hearing officer/s duly designated by the Department shall issue notice to all the parties to appear for a pre-hearing conference to consider:

- The possibility of an amicable settlement in cases that may be compromised;
- Simplification of the issues through stipulation of facts and/or admission, including admissions of documents and their authenticity; and
- Such other matters as may aid in the just, speedy, and inexpensive disposition of the case.

Section 2. Failure to Appear - All parties and their counsels, if any, shall attend the pre-hearing conference with full authority to enter into an agreement on any and all matters necessary to expedite the proceedings. The Department may, in case of failure to appear on the part of a party and his counsel, issue an order of default against the absent party, and, thereafter, the hearing officer/s may receive evidence *ex parte*.

Section 3. Amicable Settlement - When an amicable settlement is reached as provided under Section 1 (A), Rule 12 hereof, it shall be reduced to writing duly signed by the parties. Such compromise agreement shall then be the basis of an order or decision of the Department.

Section 4. Nature of Proceedings - The proceedings before the Department shall be non-litigious in nature. Subject to the requirements of due process, the technicalities of law and procedure and the rules obtaining in the courts of law shall not strictly apply thereto. The Department may avail itself of all reasonable means to ascertain the facts of the controversy speedily, including ocular inspection and examination of well informed persons.

Section 5. Postponement - Postponement or continuance of hearing may be granted only on highly meritorious grounds provided that no more than two (2) postponements or continuances shall be allowed.

RULE 13

SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS

Section 1. Cases that may be the subject of summary proceedings are:

- Non-Contested Cases** - When there is no opposition filed against an application or no answer has been filed against a complaint or petition or when the opposition or the answer filed fails to tender an issue, the Department may conduct summary proceedings.
- Contested Cases** - When the opposition or the answer does not contest the material allegations of the application or the complaint for violation of Department rules and regulations, respectively, although affirmative defenses are stated therein, the Department may conduct summary proceedings.
- Applications** - All applications for permit or other forms of authority to engage in business in the petroleum industry in whatever capacity, or classification may be conducted through summary proceedings.

Section 2. Summary Proceedings, How Conducted - After the time for filing an answer has expired and none has been filed or after the issues have been joined by the filing of the answer or the opposition, and the hearing officer/s shall have determined that the case in one which may be the subject of summary proceedings under Section 1 of this

Rule 13, the hearing officer/s shall summon the parties to appear before him/them and require the parties to bring all documentary evidence that they may have in support of their claims or defenses.

Section 3. Offer of Exhibit/Documentary Evidence - The complainant, the petitioner or applicant shall submit all documentary evidence he may have which shall be authenticated before the hearing officer/s and marked as exhibits; then the respondent, or the oppositor shall submit counter documents or affidavits which shall be authenticated before the hearing officer/s as exhibits after which the parties shall formally offer their respective exhibits in the same order, stating the purposes for which they are offered. After the formal offer of evidence, the hearing officer/s may propound clarificatory questions on the documents presented and may require the submission of position papers or memoranda.

Section 4. Submission of Memorandum, Position Paper, etc. - In order to expedite resolution of the case, the hearing officer/s may require the parties to submit, in addition to the memoranda, position papers or last pleading required of them, a draft of the decision they seek, stating clearly and distinctly the facts and the law or rules and regulations upon which it is based. Following the termination of the hearing and the submission by the parties of the required memorandum and draft of the decision they seek, the Department may, after considering and appreciating the applicable laws, rules and regulations and the evidence submitted, adopt, in whole or in part, either of the parties' draft decision or reject both.

RULE 14

POWERS AND DUTIES OF HEARING OFFICER/S

Section 1. Powers and Duties - The hearing officer/s shall have the following powers and duties:

- To administer oaths and affirmations;
- To receive evidence and rule on the admissibility of evidence as to relevance, materiality or competence of such evidence.

Section 2. Period to Decide Case - Should the hearing officer/s determine that the case cannot be heard by summary proceedings, he/she shall inform the Secretary who shall then issue an order setting the case for hearing, which hearing shall be terminated within sixty (60) calendar days from initial hearing.

Section 3. Role of Hearing Officer/s in Proceedings - The hearing officer/s shall personally preside in the conferences/hearings and, except as otherwise provided by law, he/she shall determine the order of presentation of evidence by the parties, subject to the requirements of due process. He/she shall take full control of the proceedings, examine the parties and their witnesses to satisfy himself/themselves with respect to the matters at issue, and may allow the parties or their counsel to ask questions only for the purpose of clarifying points of law or fact involved in the case. He/she shall limit the presentation of evidence to matters relevant to the issue before him/ them and necessary for a just and speedy disposition of the case.

Section 4. Presentation of Evidence - The party initiating the case shall be the first to present his evidence to support his case.

Section 5. Extent of Cross-Examination - In the cross-examination of witnesses, only relevant, pertinent and material questions necessary to enlighten the hearing officer/s shall be allowed.

Section 6. Records of Proceedings - The proceedings before a hearing officer/s need not be recorded by stenographers but the hearing officer/s shall prepare a written summary of the proceedings, including the substance of the evidence presented, in consultation with the parties. The written summary shall be signed by the parties and shall form part of the records.

RULE 15

PROVISIONAL RELIEF

Section 1. Grounds for Provisional Relief - Upon the filing of an application, complaint or petition or at any stage thereafter, a party to a case may, pending hearing of the main case, file a motion seeking a procedural remedy, interlocutory order or a provisional authority to operate or undertake any activity within the jurisdiction of the Department, setting forth the remedy or relief prayed for and the grounds relied upon for the grant of such provisional relief. The motion must be accompanied by an affidavit of merit and other supporting documents together with proof of service to the other party.

Section 2. Grant of Provisional Relief - The Department may grant or deny a motion for provisional relief, without prejudice to a final decision on the matter. However, nothing shall prohibit the Department, *motu proprio*, from granting any provisional relief to any party when public interest so requires.

RULE 16

DECISIONS AND MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION

Section 1. Contents of Decisions - The decisions of the Department shall be signed by the Secretary and shall be clear, concise and include a brief statement of the (a) facts of the case; (b) issue (s) involved; (c) finding of facts; (d) applicable law or rules; (e) conclusion and reasons therefor, and (f) the dispositive portion. They shall be filed with the hearing officer/s who shall, within three (3) days from receipt thereof, cause true copies thereof to be served upon the counsel of the parties, or in the absence of any counsel of record, on the parties themselves.

Section 2. Decisions - The Department shall render a final decision, order, ruling or resolution in accordance with the following rules:

- In Summary Proceedings - When summary proceedings have been conducted, the Department shall, within ten (10) calendar days after the case has been submitted for resolution, render a decision, order, ruling or resolution on the matter.
- In Contested Proceedings - In contested proceedings where a formal hearing has been conducted, the Department shall render a decision, order, ruling or resolution within thirty (30) calendar days after the case has been submitted for decision.
- Grant of Other Relief - In all decisions, orders, rulings or resolutions, the Department may grant such other relief or impose such terms as it may deem necessary in order to promote public interest.

Section 3. Motions for Reconsideration - Motions for reconsideration of any order, resolution or decision of the Department shall not be entertained except when based on palpable or patent errors, provided that the motion is under oath and filed within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the order, resolution or decision, with proof of service that a copy of the same has been furnished within the reglementary period, the adverse party and provided further, that only one (1) such motion from the same party shall be entertained. No pleading shall be allowed other than the motion for reconsideration and opposition thereto. The filing of a motion for reconsideration shall interrupt the running of the period for filing an appeal with the Office of the President.

RULE 17

APPEAL

Section 1. Appeal - Any party may appeal the order, ruling, or decision of the Department to the Office of the President. However, interlocutory orders cannot be the subject of an appeal.

Section 2. Procedure on Appealed Cases - In case of an appeal under the preceding section, the following rules shall apply:

- An appeal from an order, decision or ruling of the Department shall be perfected by filing with the Department a notice of appeal and with the Office of the President, within a period of fifteen (15) calendar days from notice of such order, ruling or decision; copy of the notice of appeal must be furnished all parties to the case;
- Before an appeal will be filed it must be shown that a motion for reconsideration from the order, ruling or decision has been filed with the Department and the same has been denied.
- Upon the filing of the notice of appeal, the appellant shall pay with the Department an appeal fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), whereupon, the Department shall act on the notice of appeal and shall transmit the certificate of payment of the appeal fee to the Office of the President.
- Appellant's position paper shall contain the following data/matters:
 - Exact date when the appealed order, ruling or decision was received by him;
 - Information regarding compliance with the requirements for appeal under these rules;
 - Brief statement of the case and the facts;
 - Reasons or grounds for appeal;
 - Arguments in support of the appeal
 - Relief sought.
 The Secretary may require the filing of additional pleadings to provide additional information.
- Any party filing the required pleading or documents and other pleadings pertinent to the appealed case shall furnish the adverse parties, including the Department, copies thereof.

Section 3. Effect of Appeal - An appeal shall stay the award, order or decision of the Department unless otherwise provided by law, or the appellate agency directs execution pending appeal, as it may deem just, considering the nature and circumstances of the case.

Section 4. Appeal from the Order of the Secretary - The order of the Secretary in appealed cases shall be appealable within fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt thereof to the Office of the President of the Philippines.

Section 5. Execution of Order, Ruling or Decision of the Department - The order, ruling, decision, or resolution of the Department shall become executory fifteen (15) calendar days after the expiration of the period of appeal if no appeal is taken.

Section 6. Entry of Judgment - The judgment of the Department shall be entered upon finality, or fifteen (15) calendar days after the expiration of the period of appeal, if no appeal is taken.

RULE 18

EFFECTIVITY

These rules shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, July 31, 2002.

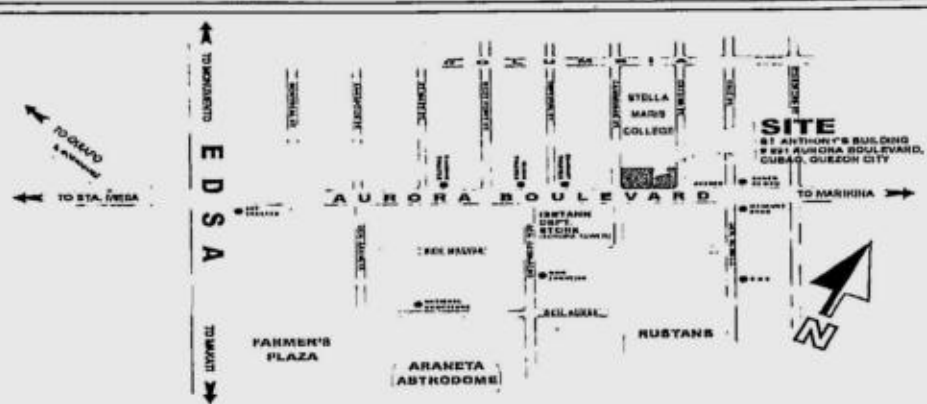
(Sgd.) VICENTE S. PÉREZ, JR.
Secretary

(PDI-August 7, 2002)

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OBITUARIES

"Eternal life
will swallow
up that which
can die. God
made us for
this very
reason and
He has given
us the Spirit as
a guarantee
that we will
live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

ISMAELA "MELY" M. CASTAÑEDA

Retired Teacher of Mandaluyong Elementary School

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 5, 2002
at the age of 95.

Her husband Lorenzo V. Castañeda (+); her children Zenaida and Celestine Josue, Rogelio and Nora Castañeda, Elisa and Eduardo Barrera, Linda and Rico Sta. Ana; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to please pray for her soul.

Her remains lie in state at San Felipe Neri Parish Church located at Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 8, 2002 at Mandaluyong Catholic Cemetery after the Necrological Mass at 2:30 p.m.

Visitacion Peralta
Tangco vda. de PiangPeacefully rejoined her Creator
on August 5, 2002

and rejoined her husband, the late Representative
Datu Gumbay Piang and son Gumbay Piang, Jr.

Her bereaved children Grace and Crispin Trompeta, Erlinda and Felix Meram, Jane and David Shever, and Daniel and Yolanda Piang; daughter-in-law Kadiguita Piang; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sisters Eulalia Lopez and Remedios Nool, request relatives and friends to remember Visitacion in their prayers.

Prudence and elegance were her mark; she lived an exemplary and an enviable life. Her life has left indelible mark that will forever be in the hearts and minds of the people close to her.

Her mortal remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City. Interment will be on August 9, 2002 at the Saint Peter's Parish Church Crypt, Commonwealth Avenue, Capitol, Quezon City.

"From darkness let the
light shine!"

Genesis 1:3

In Loving Memory

on the First Death Anniversary
of our beloved

DR. BAYANI L. C. REYES

who joined his Creator on August 8, 2001

The family requests relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers. Masses will be offered tomorrow, August 8, 2002 for the eternal repose of his soul at the following churches:

St. Peter's Parish, Commonwealth Ave., Q.C.	8:00 AM
Immaculate Conception, Concepcion, Marikina	7:00 AM
Our Lady of Edsa Shrine, Edsa cor. Ortigas	12:15 PM
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP Diliman	6:00 PM
Immaculate Conception Parish, Lantana, Cubao	6:00 AM
Society of the Divine Word	6:00 AM
Set. Ybarolaza St., Kamuning, Quezon City	
Sta. Maria della Strada, Katipunan, QC	6:00 AM
St. Joseph's Adoration Convent, Hemady, QC	6:00 AM
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish	7:00 AM
Montalban, Rizal	
St. Andrews, Daly City, California	9:00 AM
St. Patrick's, San Francisco, California	12:00 Noon
Convent of Sisters of Mercy	11:30 AM
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	
St. Clare Parish, Sta Clara, California - August 7	7:45 AM
August 8	5:30 PM

Our Beloved Mommy

AURORA "BENING"
B. MINTU-FOJASPeacefully joined our Lord on August 3, 2002
at the age of 75.

Her children, in-laws and grandchildren Alex, Mitos, Grizelle and Gail; Bernard, Lody, Loyd, Art and Fame; Cecil, Pol and Christine; Dave, Meanne, Marie, Martin and Michael; Edgar (+), Robin, Anthony, Mark and Audrey; Flory, Jessie, Niña, Nico, Nica and Niro; Gerry and Carina; Bobby, Marie, Cheska and Faith, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Augustine Church, Tanza, Cavite.

Interment will be on August 10, 2002 at Sta. Cruz Memorial Park, Tanza, Cavite after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses
his life for My sake will find it".

Matthew 10:39

VIRGINIA B. SUMABAT

(Widow of the late Romeo C. Sumabat)
March 9, 1930- August 4, 2002

Her children Francisco, Teresita, Danilo (+) and Nilda; grandchildren Dra. Judith Galang, Candy Griño, Karen, Joy, Elmer, Nayana, and Ryan Ronald; sisters Lucing, Ely, Naty; daughter-in-law Liza; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose for her soul.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City and cremation will be held also at Loyola Crematorium on August 8, 2002 after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

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NARCISO P. CATUIRAN

Died on August 5, 2002 at the age of 78.

His body lies in state at 267 Manuel L.
Quezon St., Brgy. Hulo, Pililia, Rizal.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 9,
2002 at the Pililia Cemetery.

The family of the late
Nestoria Miguel CoronelWho passed away on August 4, 2002
at the age of 80.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that her body lies in state at Our Lady of the Pillar Chapel, Pilar Vill., Las Piñas City, to be transferred to Sto. Niño Church, Pandacan, Manila on August 7, 2002.

Her bereaved children, children-in-law, brothers, sisters, all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be in Hugonoy Catholic Cemetery, Hugonoy, Bulacan on August 11, 2002, P.M.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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McDonald's-DSWD Daycare Center holds groundbreaking rites

MCDONALD'S is about to start construction of its first daycare center, a project in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the City of Makati. The groundbreaking ceremonies for this first daycare center was held July 19 at the corner of Road 19 and C-5, Barangay East Rembo, Makati City. DSWD Secretary Corazon Juliano Soliman, Makati Councilor Jejomat Binay Jr., McDonald's Philippines EVP and Ronald McDonald's House Charities (RMHC) president Kenneth Yang and RMHC executive director Jojo Samson were present to grace the affair.

The daycare center, aptly named "Bahay Bulilit" (House for the Little Ones), is just the first of a series of centers to be constructed nationwide by McDonald's through its charity arm RMHC, under the guidance of DSWD. Earlier RMHC and DSWD signed a memorandum of agreement to formalize their joint efforts in addressing issues that greatly affect children.

The daycare centers provide a solution to working parents who do not have enough money to pay for babysitters or send their children to pre-school. Once constructed, these daycare centers will provide assured quality care for children 3 to 6 years old, and play and study activities to prepare the kids for formal schooling.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities Philippines takes on this project as a long-term commitment. Hopefully, this will pave the way for a brighter future of Filipino children, once given the proper head start on education, a priority RMHC and DSWD shares with all Filipino parents.

Interested local government units (LGUs), donors and other parties may call the RMHC Office at 815-4708 for inquiries and suggestions.

RMHC is a non-profit organization that gives grants to projects benefiting children in three major areas, namely health care and medical research; education, and socio-civic activities. It has 173 chapters in 43 countries around the world. In the Philippines, most of its funds for grant making come from McDonald's donation of a share of its earnings from Happy Meals.

Interested local government units (LGUs), donors and other parties may call the RMHC Office at 815-4708 for inquiries and suggestions.



LIPA MAYOR TOURS NESTLE FACTORY

The Nestle Lipa Factory was recently visited by Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, her staff and officers and members of the Love-Lipa Foundation. Santos said she was impressed by Nestle's strict policy on hygiene and its process technology. The mayor and her staff were welcomed by Nestle Lipa Factory manager Nes Mercado and other department heads. She also attended the launching of the 'Gunting at Suklay Tungo sa Sanapuhay', a joint initiative of Nestle

Lipa and the Love Lipa Foundation for the womenfolk of indigent families. 30 women participated in the three-day hairstyling workshop conducted by Josie Garcia, a member of Lipa Yard and Garden and a certified Tesda resource person. Nestle Lipa served as the workshop venue and provided food and training equipment and materials while the Love Lipa Foundation, chaired by Santos, selected the participants.



SMCLAA RECOGNIZES ITS OWN

Saint Michael's College of Laguna Alumni Association (SMCLAA) awarded Ethel Gina D. Bailon (third from left), who graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1987, a special citation for being a personification of SMCL's vision for its Education graduates. Bailon

succeeds Nestor V. Hadi (left) as the president of SMCLAA for 2002. With Bailon are (from left) Dr. Lourdes Almada-Sese, SMCL executive vice president and faculty members Leonila Alfonso, Norminia C. Manlapig, Marites M. Matic, Omega Amor C. David and Randolph D. David.



NEW LAW LIBRARY OPENED

The Bayani Virata Faylona Law Library inside University of Manila College of Law was inaugurated July 20. Present during the ribbon-cutting rites were Councilor Cynthia Willard-Lewis of New Orleans, United States, Sen. Edgardo Angara, and Luningning Lacuna.



KBP SIGNS ON COMLINK

The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP), the national organization of broadcast media practitioners, formally named Communications Linkages Inc., (ComLink) among the leading consulting firms in public issue management and corporate communications, as KBP's PR counsel for the current year. Signing the agreement are KBP chair Cerge M. Remonde of RPN 9 (second from left) and ComLink chair Ner C. Dayrit (second from right), with their respective presidents KBP's Ruperto S. Nicdao Jr. of Manila

Broadcasting Company (left) and ComLink's Butch L. Junia (right), in the presence of (standing, from left) board secretary Rodolfo P. Lacuna of RPN 9, director lawyer Andrefanio D. Santos of ABS-CBN, EVP Fr. Manuel B. Bongayan, SVD of Radio Veritas, VP-radio Pinky Aseron of Raven Broadcasting, director Rino M. Basilio of ABC 5, VP-television lawyer Bernardo G. Salas of GMA 7, audio-visual communicator Rafael V. Barriero, treasurer Cynthia M. Ragasa of Mabuhay Broadcasting System and KBP's executive director Reynaldo H. Hulong.



ASEAN LAWYERS, SBLAA HOST DINNER

The Philippine Chapter of the Asean Lawyers Association (ALA) and the San Beda Law Alumni Association (SBLAA) recently hosted a dinner feting Chief Justice Tun Mohamed Dzalldin Abdullah (seated, center) of Malaysia's Federal Supreme Court at the Tower Club of the Philamlife Tower. Among those present at the

dinner were (seated, from left) Supreme Court Justices Leo Quisumbing, Artemio Panganiban, SBLAA chair lawyer Avelino Cruz, and SBLAA president lawyer Sixto Brilantes. Standing, from left, are lawyers Alfonso Reyno Jr., Victor Lazatin, Rodolfo Salalima, Gerry Parolan and Nick Acosta.

Why I need to see a dermatologist for acne

WHEN it comes to *acne vulgaris*, or simply acne, most of us don't rush immediately to see a dermatologist. Sadly, most women and teenagers prefer to prick their zits with their bare, unclean hands. They also use so-so skin care products that - much to their dismay - worsen acne, thus resulting in more irritation and infection.

This is why for people with acne, it is still best to visit your dermatologist who knows how to better treat and prevent this common skin disorder. As we all know, dermatologists have the expertise to treat the skin (including hair and nails) and suggest a proper regimen in case of diseases and infections.

The statistics are quite alarming. Over 85 percent of people aged 12 to 24 have experienced acne that often takes away one's self-esteem and affects one's social life. As late as ages 20s and 30s, acne can be prevalent especially among women whose hormones are constantly fluctuating. Studies also show that one in four adults between the ages of 25 and 44 have experienced acne, and nearly half of all adult women experience mild to moderate acne.

Dermatologists are experts in their field and would be in the proper position to discuss your skin woes personally. A visit to a dermatologist will surely help to develop an effective approach to one's skin care problem. They can also suggest the proper treatment of acne with the most effective medications available today.

When self treatment is no longer effective in treating acne, this is the right time to seek medical advice from professionals. Women and teenagers should also be able to trust their dermatologist as they know what medication would best treat their acne.

But more than the expert advice, dermatologists

also provide a personal approach to consultations that patients normally look for during their scheduled visits. These skin care experts can also answer relevant questions that patients would like to ask regarding their skin care regimen.

In fact, most dermatologists offer some tried-and-tested secrets to acne therapy:

- Use a pore unblocker such as a topical retinoid (like adapalene) plus an antibiotic to kill bacteria living in the pores.
- Be patient, allow eight to 12 weeks for best results.
- Use only mild skin cleansers like Cetaphil Gentle Skin Cleanser to wash the face and wash no more than two times per day.
- Keep treating skin even when it is looking its best to control new acne pimples from forming.

Among the many anti-acne ingredients available in the market today, most dermatologists prescribe adapalene for their acne patients. Highly recommended by dermatologists, adapalene is a breakthrough topical retinoid that is clinically proven to effectively eliminate and reduce *acne vulgaris*.

Adapalene unclogs the pores and clears zits and other blemishes such as whiteheads (closed comedones) and blackheads (open comedones). Adapalene can also treat acnes characterized by papules (red pimples) and pustules. Adapalene, an anti-acne ingredient, is approved by the Food and Drug Authority (FDA) in the United States.

So if you have acne, make it a habit to visit your dermatologist and seek advice on the right skin care treatment. Always remember that the perfect combination of a scheduled visit and proper skin care regimen equals a blemish-free skin.

Kill diabetes and body fat

HEALTH From Earth Philippines, in cooperation with Omron, Abbott Laboratories diagnostic division, and Prevention Magazine will host a diabetes and body fat lecture and exhibits on Aug. 16, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. The guest speaker for this lecture is Dr. Abe Gibeily, a world-renowned American diabetes researcher who stunned the Filipino public with his revelations about diabetes and body fat cures. Armed with all the understanding of what diabetes and body fat were, diabetics and overweight individuals who attended his prior discussion were able to manage and often eliminate the life-threatening effects of these two deadly diseases and their numerous complications. Call the HFE Life Support Hotline at 660-2290, 660-8017, or 843-9781, or text 0916-3050010. E-mail healthph@doctor.com.

Postgraduate course at JRRMMC

THE DEPARTMENT of Orthopedics and Traumatology of the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRRMMC), in cooperation with the Philippine Spine Society (PSS) and the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Inc (Ospi), will be holding its second postgraduate course "Managing Spine Problems and Osteoporosis" on Aug 15 and 16 at the Intramuros Ballroom of the Manila Midtown Hotel. This activity will tackle the most commonly encountered problems in spine, and osteoporosis. Attendance is equivalent to 50 CME units. For more details, call the JRRMMC Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology at 711-9491.



AYALA LIFE PARTNERS ATTEND NASHVILLE CONFAB

Ayala Life continues to produce more outstanding people in its agency force. They are equipped with the right skills for the job, and gain excellent training. As a result, the company announces its qualifiers to the Million Dollar Round Table for 2001: Malou Melmban from the Kalookan branch, Alan Ramos from the Alabang branch, Mellie Aguila

from the Makati 1 branch, Yolly Espino from the financial services group, Marilyn de Guzman from the Kalookan branch, and Fennela Victoria from the Makati 1 branch. The top 6 producers of the company attended the MDRT 'Making a Difference' conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Melmban (2nd from left) is shown attending one of the conferences.

Aussie university's MBA program



FELLS

THE UNIVERSITY of Western Australia, a renowned 'Sandstone University' (comparable to the US Ivy League), will launch an innovative 18-month MBA program in Manila this September. Nine professors will be flown in from UWA to facilitate the teaching in this classroom-based world-class education. On Aug. 12, interested participants are invited to an informative talk to be conducted by associate professor Ray Fells, associate director of the Graduate School of Management, UWA. The venue will be at the 6th floor, Oakwood Premiere-Private Function Room, Ayala Center, Makati, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Esteban School of Makati, in its continuing effort to offer world-class education to the Philippines, has partnered with UWA. For more details, call 844-2812 or 887-6390/91, or e-mail esteban@i-next.net.

Shatter myths on innovation

MYTH #1 Any idea is a good idea for as long as you have one.

There are ideas and there are innovative ideas. Innovative ideas are those that make products, processes and people better, faster, safer, cost effective. These ideas may also produce monetary value for the organization. They often contribute to the good of society.

Reader Honorato Santos, a retired manufacturing vice-president of an oil company, shares this message: "How many times have we heard a Filipino technician crow with pride 'ni-recta ko na,' meaning, he made a direct connection bypassing all safety devices. This practice very often leads to more expensive failures or disastrous results. And his manager backs him up by simply claiming 'we can't afford the proper solution,' or 'walang budget.'"

"This 'recta' attitude, stupidly mistaken as creativity, goes all the way to the top.

RECIPES for LEARNING

Moje Ramos-Aquino



Myth #2 An idea is forever.

What is common among these products: Wordstar, hula hoops, "walastik," Atari, acid wash jeans, sideburns, attaché case, kalesa, Nokia 30, pencil case-type camera, LP records, Betamax, "That's Entertainment," 5" floppy disk, rotary telephone? They had their peak periods and now they are gone. Ideas have a life cycle: birth, maturity and death. Some don't exactly die altogether such as the yo-yo or bell bottoms but they have a hard time even approximating their past success.

There is a need to continuously reinvent and improve on a product for it to stay in the market. Examples are Microsoft Word, Windows, cars, basketball.

There are also originals that seem to be "walang kamatayan" such as ChocNut, Juicy Fruit, Chippy, Coke classic, San Miguel beer pale pilsen. Until when, we do not know. Aside from the basic idea, these products have come up with innovative choices to ensure their continued stay in the marketplace.

Myth #3 It takes time to even think of innovative ideas. Why should I bother?

In the book "Creativity & Innovation, The ASTD Trainer's Sourcebook," (McGraw-Hill, 1996) author Elaine Biech reports that some ideas came about as mistakes, e.g., Post-it Notes and the process of vulcanization; others were found accidentally, e.g. penicillin and x-ray; and some came at odd times, e.g., at breakfast, a waffle became the model for the Nike shoe sole.

The important thing to remember is that when you chance upon a new idea, capture, challenge, broaden and act on it.

Myth #4 It takes high intelligence and lots of resources to be innovative and creative.

Robert Epstein, author of "The Big Book of Creative Games," (McGraw-Hill, 2000), writes that no study has ever shown that any particular degree of intelligence is necessary for creativity, and there are plenty of prominent artists, inventors, poets, and composers of average smarts.

Two US Navy technicians were trying to test a radio communications channel across the Potomac River when a passing steamer got in the way. The ship bounced the radio signal right back at the men. As they considered what had happened, they developed the idea of radar.

Myth #5 Creativity and innovation can't be studied and can't be learned.

There are hundreds of thousands of web sites, books, thesis and short articles everywhere on innovation and creativity. They include easy-to-follow how-tos. Nowadays, there are lots of resources on creativity and innovation.

However, knowledge alone will not make you creative and innovative. Too much knowledge could even hamper creativity because you tend to rely more on your memory than in flexing your brain muscles.

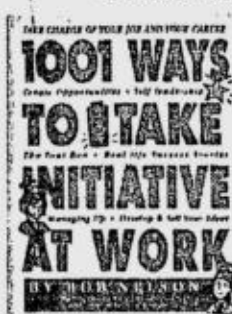
There are people who believe in themselves and are able to generate and act on their ideas. There are people who wait and see for others to ideate. There are people who are quick to dismiss great ideas that occasionally visit their minds because they see its twin-hard work. There are people who don't even bother to perceive and learn beyond their present circumstances. There are people who rest too long on their previous successes.

In other words, creativity and innovation are attitudes. You don't say one day, "let's create and innovate." They are values to live by. They are ideas, pigments of imagination that are latent in everybody and are waiting to be tapped. They are constantly nagging you to use your God-given eight intelligences and two-part brains.

Want to learn more about innovation and creativity? Want to uncover your innovative and creative self? Want to join our innovation community? Join us at the Innovation Camp on August 16 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) at the Makati Sports Club. It is a learning event like no other. Call 414-0186 or 0916-479-0038 for details and registration.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com)

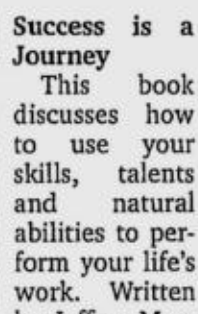
EDITOR'S PICKS



1001 Ways to Take Initiative at Work
Author Bob Nelson brings together hundreds of real-life examples and advice from business leaders to inspire people at work. This book aims to challenge its readers in realizing their full potential. The book highlights techniques and exercises that can help readers to draw on their inner creativity, develop leadership, set goals and sell ideas.



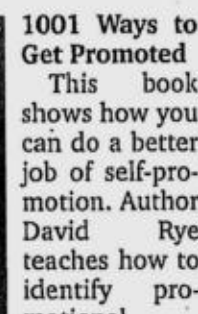
Success Is a Journey
Achieving Success in the Business of Life
This book discusses how to use your skills, talents and natural abilities to perform your life's work. Written by Jeffrey Mayer, "Success is a Journey" is a hands-on guide that will help you set your priorities to achieve your goals and ambitions. It also discusses how to take control of your day so you can get the more important things done.



1001 Ways to Get Promoted
This book shows how you can do a better job of self-promotion. Author David Rye teaches how to identify promotional strategies and fit them into a master plan. He also brings together 1,001 self-promotional techniques and hundreds of true-to-life stories that will inspire working people to do better in their jobs.



Fish!
Written by Stephen Lundin, Harry Paul and John Christensen, this book is for people who want to experience a more playful atmosphere at work. In this parable, a manager wants to turn an unenthusiastic team into an effective one. Taking pointers from Pike Place Fish, a famous market that has a joyful ambience, this manager discovers how to energize her people and eventually, bring a transformation.



These books are available at all Power Books Specialty Stores.



WG&A signs up as sponsor for Bob Rosner Live! in Manila. Signing the agreement are (seated, from left) INQUIRER SVP FOR SALES AND MARKETING RENE REINOSO, WG&A CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER GINA VIRTUSIO, PEOPLE AT WORK EDITOR REGINA REYES. WITNESSING THE SIGNING ARE (STANDING, FROM LEFT) OPTIMUS MANAGERS & ADVISORS, INC. ACCOUNT MANAGER JET ASUGAN, INQUIRER AVP FOR DISPLAY ADVERTISING, KERRY NUYDA. PHOTO BY EUGENE ANANEA

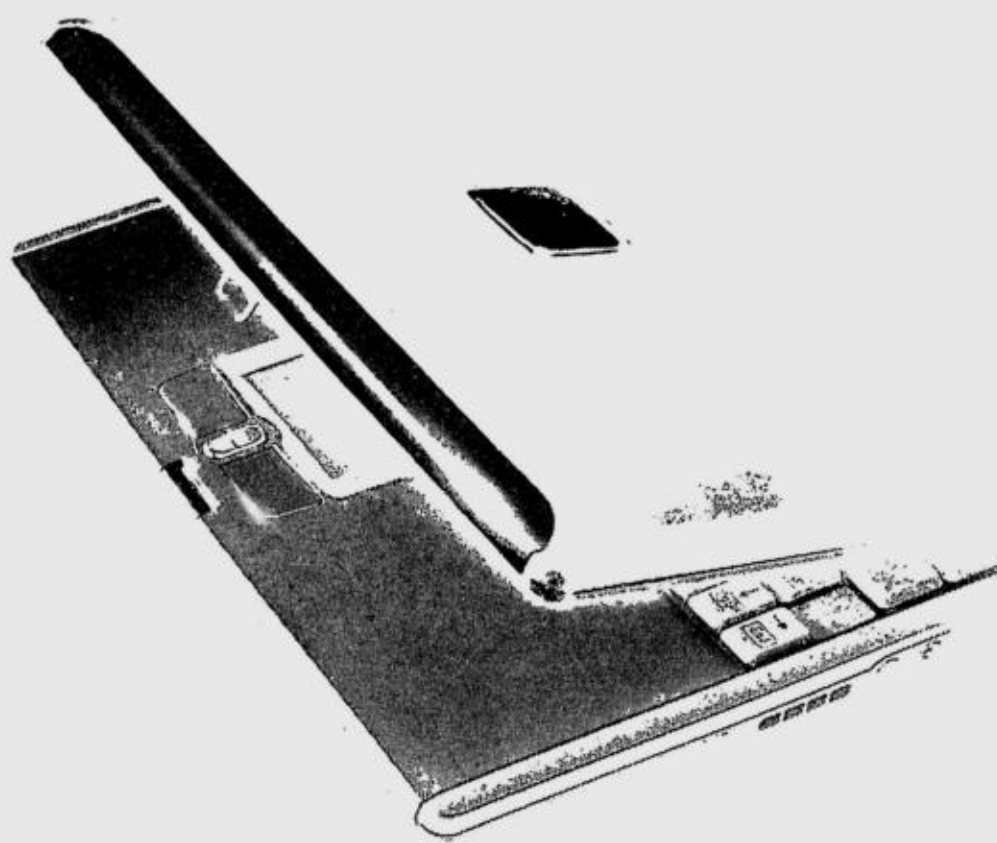


PHILAMLIFE joins companies who care for people at work as sponsor for Bob Rosner Live! in Manila. At the signing are (seated, from left) INQUIRER MARKETING SERVICES HEAD DONALD LIM, PHILAMLIFE SALES AND PROMOTIONS & PR MANAGER MARINE ANGELES, OPTIMUS MANAGERS & ADVISORS, INC. PRESIDENT JUAN REYES JR., (STANDING FROM LEFT) OPTIMUS ACCOUNT MANAGER JET ASUGAN, AND OPTIMUS MARKETING DIRECTOR MA ACUÑA. PHOTO BY ERNE U. SAMPENITO

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- Security Panel (for security lock & application launch)
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
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PEOPLEatWORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Being a working mom is no excuse for bad work performance

I TURN into a hermit at long meetings. Stretch a meeting for over two hours and I'm crawling into my invisible shell, cocooning from the discussions, listening still but not entirely there. It's an art I've learned over the years, a survival trick, in fact, in this corporate world built on marathon meetings. The art is in keeping your ear on the lead story, while your mind is stealthily navigating the other concerns of a working mom. The science is in making sure you know how to maneuver right back into the meeting, without skipping a beat, without letting the glitch in the matrix show.

Sleeping client

I've come to this decision to build up my endurance for meetings as a recoil reaction to a wom-

an who once sat across from me at a major client-agency presentation. It was one of those larger-than-life meetings when the presentors went out of their way to pamper and dazzle the client into buying into their message. I was on the presentors' side and this woman was on the client side.

She sat right at the front table across the podium. Right smack where all the speakers could see her. It was the seat in the house normally reserved only for those willing to engage the presentors in dialogue.

Bad image model

Fifteen minutes into our presentation, this woman dozed off. She didn't just do the bobbing-head-snooze that we all practiced in high school, she really gave in to sleep.

WORKING MOM

An Mercado
Alcantara



She lay her head on the table, covered her eyes with her hands, and showed no qualms about offending the speaker, nor embarrassing her boss who sat right beside her. Those of us at stage center were dumbfounded by her rudeness. We spoke louder, cracked jokes, made the presentation livelier, dropped all kinds of hints, but still her head stayed down.

At the end of the presentation, I approached her colleague and

said as politely as I could: "Is your friend feeling alright? She slept through most of the presentation. Maybe next time she should step out of the meeting or not come at all."

I was appalled by her colleague's answer: "Pasensiya ka na, ha. Working mother kasi iyan. Puyat sa kakaalaga ng mga anak."

No excuses

I was shell-shocked. This is the kind of woman that gives working moms a bad reputation. If we are to work toward making sure that working moms get a fair opportunity to break through the glass ceiling, we have to be sure we can carry our own weight. We not only have to build our endurance for marathon meetings,

but we have to keep up all appearances of competency.

As a cardinal rule, working moms must never use their children as an excuse for sloppy performance. You want to get noticed, spare us the woe-is-me routine. Instead, get your act together. Strive to be the most efficient in your office. When you've streamlined your work, taking time off to take care of your kids—come tutorial time or when illness strikes—will not wreak too much havoc at work. When you have to tell your boss that you need to take some time off work to take care of family matters, tell her right away what you will do to make up for your absence or what you've already done to make sure that work processes are not ham-

pered in your absence.

Of course, we hope that our boss will understand our predicament, but we shouldn't count on it. If you work for a company that is not very supportive of the balancing act that working moms have to play, then help create a culture that would be more accepting. Talk to your colleagues about their work-life concerns, set-up support groups, organize systems so that if a working mom has to stay home, somebody can pinch hit for her.

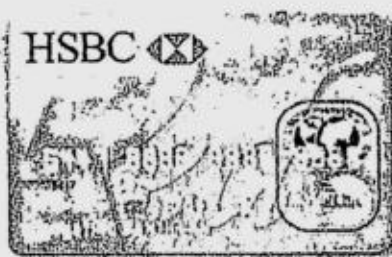
Remember, though, that the buck always stops with you. It's your willingness to learn the art and the science of the balancing act that will get you through even the longest of marathon meetings.



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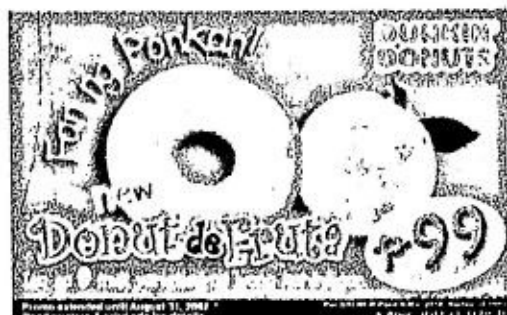
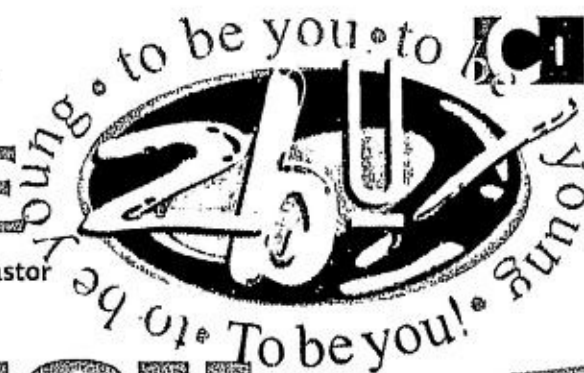
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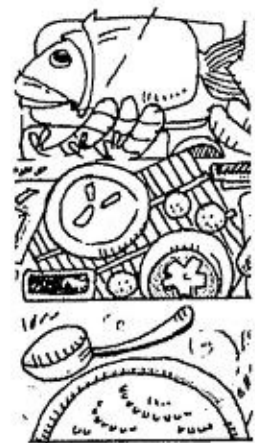
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PROUD 26 PINOY

Part 1



Aren't these terrible times to be a Filipino? The kidnapping of foreigners, unmitigated corruption, petty but destructive politicking, poor public services—you name every godawful thing, the Philippines has it. But as this edition points out, there are still blessed reasons for one to stay put and be thankful for having been born Filipino



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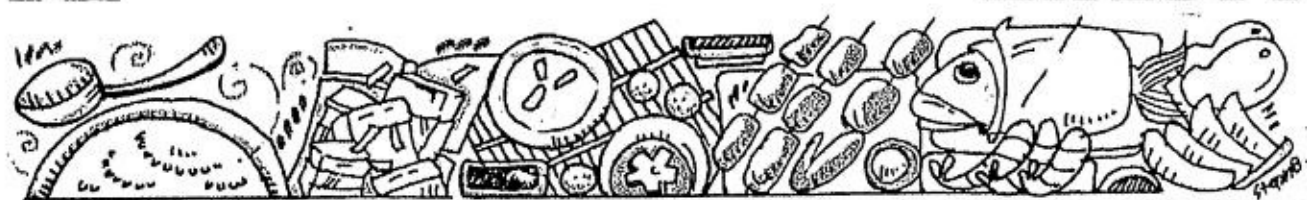


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The Pinoy culinary universe

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bUI Correspondent

FORGET the surveys. Even the most reliable statistics can never truly give justice to the Filipino love for food. We are a culture that eats to live and lives to eat. From the *panganay's* baptism to the *bunso's* graduation, to sumptuous weddings, birthdays, town fiestas, and even weekend get-togethers, Filipinos find themselves gravitating toward the dinner table. What are the staples on that table?

Foremost would be rice. White and steaming fresh from the cooker, rice is served in abundance and paired with contrastingly salty, spicy, and sour viands.

After rice, there are the classic Pinoy dishes, known traditionally as "*mga luto ni lola*." These dishes employ the classics of Filipino culinary techniques:

- **Binuro**—salting—great for *talangka* (small crabs), *alimasag* (crabs), *bangus* (milkfish), *hito* (catfish), *dalag* (mudfish), and even eggs and vegetables.

- **Dinaing**—broiled or fried fish that is cut at the back and opened like a butterfly.

- **Ginataan**—cooking fish, crustaceans, vegetables, or root crops in coconut milk.

- **Ginisá**—sautéing food in oil, garlic and onions.

- **Halabos**—cooking shellfish or crustaceans in their own pulp with a little salt.

- **Inadobo**—cooking with vinegar, *toyo* (soy sauce) and spices. If there ever were a national dish, it would be *adobo*.

- **Inasnan**—preserving food with salt.

- **Inihaw**—grilling food over charcoal.

- **Kinilaw**—food marinated in vinegar and spices (*saviche* or *raw*), then dressed with palm vinegar or lime juice, flavored with onions, ginger, and perhaps chili peppers, and served fresh without cooking or use of fat.

- **Nilaga**—the traditional boiling of fish, fowl, meat, eggs, or *mani*.

- **Pangat**—cooking fish with a little water, with or without a souring agent.

- **Pasingaw**—steaming fish, meat, fowl or shellfish.

- **Pináis**—food wrapped in leaves (banana or *alagao*), then steamed.

- **Pinaksiw**—cooking fish with vinegar, a little water and some spices.

- **Pinausukan**—smoking fish, meat and fowl just before eating.

- **Pesa**—boiling sautéed fish with ginger, vegetables and *patis*.

- **Sinigang**—cooking with water and adding a sour agent from fruit or vegetable, usually tamarind.

- **Sinuam**—boiling sautéed fish or shellfish in ginger and pepper leaves.

- **Tinapa**—blanching fish and smoking it until golden brown.

This and more information can be found in Gilda Cordero-Fernando's "Philippine Food and Life."

Exotics

Foreigners don't know what they're missing in *suso* or *kuhol*. The French, however, with their pricey escargots, are definitely one with us in palate.

For nights of exciting gastronomic discoveries, you can go for samples of *adobong baboy damo* and crispy frog legs at Cactus Bar & Grill, or *adobong bayawak* (monitor lizard), *inihaw na baboy damo* and *usa* (deer), and ostrich *salpicado* at the Krokodile Grillery.

We're not the only people who eat frogs, deer, wild boar, and ostrich in the world, but have you ever heard of *ginataang paniki* (bats) and *inadobong paniki*? If you feel a little adventurous, you can go all the way with dishes such as *inihaw na kuneho* (rabbits), *dagang bukid* (rats), and heaven forbid, *kalderetang aso* (dogs).

We often eat a certain organ that is called the "reticulum." That's the cow's four-chambered stomach where grass is ground and fermented in the main chamber (the rumen). Once cleaned and stripped of its inner covering (epithelium, which is usually dark because of grass stain), the organ becomes white and is

Adobo, kare-kare, bagoong, daing, binurong talangka, sisig—the list of dishes is inexhaustible

known more commonly as tripe. This is then used for dishes such as *goto* (rice gruel or congee as in Chinese restaurants) and *callos*, a Spanish tomato-based recipe we all love.

Everyone knows what *sisig* and *chicharon* are and how good they taste. But have you ever wondered what your brother's *barkada* eat whenever they would spend the night drinking? If you're talking about *pinapaitan*, this *pulutan* is actually made of beef tripe and beef sirloin in beef bile. Talk about mad cow!

And have you heard of *dinakdakan*? It's actually made of pig's ears and tongue, and pig's brains. Pig's ears are actually ingredients used in the more familiar dish, *tokwa't baboy*.

Pinoy caviar

Among Filipino dishes that Filipinos would miss if they left the country, *bagoong* ranks first. Whether it's *balayan*, *ginamos* (fermented anchovies), or *alamang* (fermented tiny shrimps), *bagoong* is sorely missed abroad. *Bagoong* is very salty and has a funny smell to it when uncooked. Its piquant taste however never fails to deliver. *Kare-kare* (ox tail in peanut sauce), *pinakbet* (a mélange of vegetables from the North), and green mangoes are never the same without the heavenly accompaniment of native *bagoong*. Next in line among Pinoy sauces, seasonings, and spices are *patis* (salty and odorous fish drippings) and the traditional *suka* (vinegar).

Taya! The joys of children's games rediscovered

By Ma. Angela V. Ignacio
2bUI Correspondent

WHEN we were kids, we always looked forward to getting together with our neighborhood friends. Right after school, we would turn the whole neighborhood upside down with our raucous laughter, running and shrieking ourselves silly under the sweltering heat of the sun until we resembled panting masses of grime and sweat by sundown. Pooped but inexhaustibly happy, we would drag ourselves back to our homes at our mothers' or *yayas'* stern summons, already anticipating another afternoon of merriment and uninterrupted horseplay.

That was the typical afternoon for most children. But now that technology has ushered in other forms of recreation, our favorite outdoor games have been slowly edged out of our afternoon agenda and replaced by electronic gadgets and handheld devices. We seem to have forgotten that these games are, after all, an illustrious Filipino legacy. Let's rediscover some of the most popular children's games that embody the true Pinoy notion of fun.

Piko

Concrete pavements were never safe from chalk marks with this game. On a large rectangular box divided into smaller boxes, each player casts her marker and hops from box to box, avoiding stepping on the lines and the box where her marker landed. Kids either honed their leaping abilities or skinned their knees in the process.

Patintero

All members of the offensive team try to get past the defense, reach one end, and go back to the starting point. The more agile ones are the popular picks. Then again, team leaders usually fight over the tall and lanky kids because their long arms can easily block or tag the opponents. Think basketball, only without ball and basket.

Taguan

The Pinoy version of hide 'n' seek. In my old neighborhood, we didn't want to let older kids in on the game because two of them would sometimes end up missing. Where they hid, we never bothered to find out.

Sipa

Long before hacky sacks were invented, Pinoy kids were already kicking and elbowing these little toys high up in the air. They're basically made up of a flat, round piece of metal (similar to a small coin) with tufts of straw poked through a tiny hole in the middle.

Langit-lupa

It's tag with a twist. The "it" still chases the other players until she tags one. As long as the "prey" steps on any elevated area (staircases,

chairs, boulders or even car hoods), she can't be tagged. Some cheaters don't move from their "*langit*" until the game ends, so sometimes certain limitations are put in place.

Tumbang preso

Although highly detrimental to footwear, kids loved trying to knock over tin cans and whatnots, tongues peeking out from the sides of their mouths in sheer concentration. Plain rubber slippers are the best ones to use, since they're flatter and lighter, and can be thrown with greater precision, much like a frisbee. Plus, they're inexpensive, much to the relief of parents everywhere.

Bahay-kubo / Pen pen de sarapen

One can usually hear the rhythmic clapping sounds of kids playing these games anywhere—classrooms, school buses, homes and the like. Whether played by two or more people, they make for a good pastime.

Agawan

As the name implies, two (or sometimes more) teams try to steal each other's bases by sneaking up on the other when no one's looking. Any member can also chase down an opponent, capture that person and bring her over to the base, where the "captive" will remain until one of his teammates is able to reach the base and "free" her. A lot of squabbles usually start from this game, I don't know why.

Teks

Potato chip companies are given a boost in sales whenever they put free cards in every pack, because kids would spend almost all of their allowances in collecting tons of these small trading cards. Then again, this isn't really much different from the way people collect Magic cards. How people play using both types of trading cards is still beyond me.

Sungka

Those who don't want to reek of sweat and sun opt to play this instead. It uses an elongated piece of wood with two big pits at either of the two ends and seven pairs of smaller ones in between. The object of the game is to fill up your pit with as many *sigay* or small seashells as you can by distributing them to all holes except your opponent's. Some have become so adept in this that you can't even see their hands anymore.

Holen/Jolen

From the standard cat's-eye designs to huge, glittery ones, marbles are a kid's favorite. In the game, a participant uses his own marble to knock away the marbles of his opponents. The winner gets to collect the other player's marbles at the end of the game. Too bad, I lost all of mine a long time ago.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@hotmail.com.

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BUSINESS INQUIRER

New lineup,
new sound,
new album.
But will the
formula
work?

Eraserheads

adjusts to life after Ely



ERASERHEADS REBORN. Adoro, Gorra-Dancel, Zabala and Marasigan

By Maui V. Reyes.
2bUI Correspondent

"SIYEMPRE fan ako ng E-heads. Sila talaga yung nag-inspire sa Fatal Posporos na gumawa ng original songs," Kris Gorra-Dancel says, grinning. "Back then, Fatal Posporos was playing covers, stuff from Poison and the Ramones."

At the other end of the table, Raimund Marasigan, Buddy Zabala and Marcus Adoro laugh.

"Poison and the Ramones? Ang layo naman na!" Marcus exclaims, as Kris struggles to finish her story. They are taking a break from rehearsals, preparing for their soft EP launch the next day.

Kris continues, "When we heard the Eraserheads, we thought: 'Why should we stick to singing covers when it's so hard?' We weren't that good at playing our instruments back then. So we wrote originals. It's more sincere that way."

Kris has gone a long way from cranking up heavy metal and punk tunes with her high school band, Fatal Posporos, which (contrary to nasty rumors) has not broken up, and listening to Eraserheads hits in Top 40 radio programs. She has now become the lead singer of one of the most influential bands of the '90s.

Nothing is permanent

Anyone who heard the news that Ely Buendia had left his band was either surprised, shocked, or simply didn't believe the report.

"Kumakain ako sa Megamall," Raimund says. "First reaction ko, 'A, okay...alam kaya nina Buddy?' I was surprised. Actually, semi-surprised."

"Nag-text siya sa amin na 'graduate' na daw siya e," Marcus adds. He pauses, then smiles. "E naisip ko, '87 yung batch niya, '88 kami, so talagang nauna siyang mag-graduate sa amin."

"It was going to happen sooner or later," Buddy says. "Medyo nararamdaman na namin."

People came up with their own versions of why Ely left the band: To pursue a solo career. Jealousy of his band mates' side projects (although his solo album was a big success). Personal reasons.

The truth is, no one knows, not even the other members of the band. "We haven't spoken to him since he sent us that text message," Raimund says.

Looking back, the band recalls signs indicating his imminent departure. Buddy says, "I was surprised, but not a lot. You know, when you're half-expecting and you're half not."

Marcus points out that during the 2001 NU 107 Rock Awards, Ely was telling the band that they should look for a new vocalist, hold auditions. He thought it was another one of Ely's many jokes. "Akala ko parang gimik lang; hindi ko pinansin. Kasi minsan mag-text siya: 'Gawa tayo ng bagong set list, ayaw mo ba ng set list natin?' Tapos ako, 'anong set list?' So malabo lang talaga ang usapan namin palagi. Malabo ng signal namin. Tapos narinig namin yung demo niya, 'I'm Closing In.' Parang, ano yon?"

The remaining members had to think of a quick solution. They had three gigs in the coming weeks. To fulfill the contract, Raimund took over the guitar and vocals and they got a session drummer and guitarists. After the gigs, the band finally sat down to talk.

Change

Vin Dancel, lead vocalist of the band Twisted Halo, was talking on the phone to Raimund when, according to the guitarist, a "cosmic connection" was made. Vin's wife Kris, Fatal Posporos' lead guitarist and singer, became the new Eraserheads vocalist.

"Narinig ko [si Kris] mag-audition over the phone. Yung, joke lang. So tinawagan ko si Buddy, tapos nanood kami ng Fatal Posporos gig that same night," Raimund recalls. "Buddy agreed with me (that she was suitable)."

When Raimund asked Marcus what kind of singer he wanted for the 'Heads, he simply replied, "Yung sexy." But Marcus did not know about Kris yet.

The next obstacle to hurdle: convincing management that Kris was fit for the job. As Buddy puts it, "They (management) were expecting more of the same kind. A replacement with the same direction. But then again, Kris sings, plays guitar and sings. And she rocks."

Raimund agrees. "[It was unanimous] except for management, since it's never been tried before."

Although management wasn't too happy with the change, it approved the new lineup as long as rehearsals went well, which they did. Next on the checklist were gigs as the band had bookings. Third would be an EP. If that worked out, an album would be released.

Of course, with a new lineup comes a lot of changes. The first was a change in key. Since Kris' vocal range was higher, almost all Eraserheads songs had to be rearranged. "Magkaiba yung guitar playing ni Marcus and Kris, so nag-adjust silang dalawa. Nagpupuntahan pa sila sa mga bahay-bahay nila para lang mag-jam and magkasundo sa guitar parts," Raimund recalls.

Songwriting also changed. While the band used to rely on Ely to write most of the lyrics,

all members are now penning songs for the next album. The band's point of view has also changed—obviously, since the vocalist is now a woman. As for Kris? "The [music] style isn't that different. Yung main difference na nakikita ko is we play longer sets, compared to Fatal Posporos," she observes.

Audience response

"Mixed reactions, as expected," Buddy sighs when asked about the feedback they get. People have been expressing their opinions on the new Eraserheads since the new lineup was unveiled at the Hard Rock Café last April 19. Some say they should just disband and form a new group.

"[Changing the name] was one of the first things that occurred to us," Buddy says. "But then again, nobody was using the name, so why drop it? It opens more doors than it closes. It's established."

"Bottom line: it gets the gigs," Raimund adds. "It gets more gigs than a new name. And we don't need to prove anything by getting a new name. We earned the name."

Others judge them before even seeing them perform live. Others have become converts, while some simply don't care. Kris is not inclined to dwell on the audience's response.

"Hindi ko masyadong pinapansin yung crowd. Ayokong isipin yon. Mas busy ako sa pag-iisip sa pagtugtog ko," she says.

Moving on

People may bash the new 'Heads, but there is no other choice but to move forward. The band has already written enough songs to fill an album, which it hopes to release by the end of the year. In fact, it has already made an EP.

"The negotiations with the record company and rehearsals and whatnot are taking too long," Raimund complains. "So we agreed on a trial record just to prove that we can play the old songs and make new ones. But, as of now, we've written the whole album."

The EP, entitled "Please Transpose," contains seven new songs, including the new single, "You Make Me." A video was also made for the single, which Marie Jamora (the Eraserheads' "Maskara," <S>andwich's "Food for the Soul" and itchyworms' "Antipara") directed.

The band is looking forward to the release of a new album, and expects some cameos when it does come out. A song was inspired by Ciudad, and the band is hoping to have Ciudad vocalist and bassist Mikey Amistoso on that record, as well as Jazz Nicolas of itchyworms' for some keyboard work. Members of Pan and Cover Me Quick, as well as ex-Mojofly guitarist Rann Golanco, have gotten onstage with the band during live gigs.

"It's cool because it's the first time we've ever gone full-blown. It's the first time we've written for a girl, and the EP is purely home recording. We're excited and happy," Raimund says. "That's a new word for the 'Heads. Happy."

The album, along with the EP, however, will have to wait.

"We're still getting people's opinions on the EP," Buddy says. "It's not commercially available—yet."

Other interests

"Kung gusto mo, kaya mo," Kris says, when asked how she juggles two bands and motherhood. Raimund produces albums on the side when not remixing songs as his alter-ego Squid 9 and playing guitar for <S>andwich. Marcus has launched his own side project, "Kamon Kamon," and Buddy has his "own little side projects."

With all their other activities, will this formula work?

"I know it's working," Raimund says. He pauses, then laughs. "But I'm arrogant."

He is, however, convinced that the Eraserheads is nowhere near the "Where Are They Now?" level. Raimund says that when they play, the reaction toward the first three songs pretty much tells if the gig will work out since they can't play an 18-song set if the audience is not receptive.

"Rico Blanco told us, 'pag ginalangan mo, magaling ka talaga,'" Raimund says. "Talagang may pupunta sa gig para lang mang-asar. Pero rehearse nang todo. From the old Eraserheads na two to three times a year lang mag-rehearse dahil sa mga gigs, ngayon, twice a week."

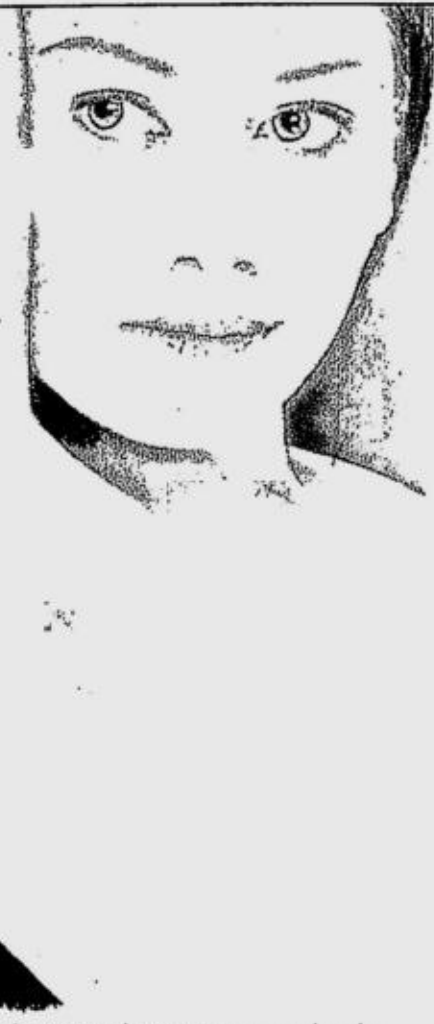
Kris, on the other hand, refuses to be bothered by what people and the critics say. "Hindi naman sa waste of time, ayoko lang maubos yung oras ko sa kakaisip ng mga gano'n. Because there will always be someone who will compare me to Ely. I can't really control that."

They head back to the studio to polish their new sounds. Raimund thinks about getting a Mohawk, Buddy has somewhere else to go and Kris has motherly duties to do. In the meantime, they run through some songs one last time to make sure everything's right.

"In the age of piracy, we have to be realistic. We have to be optimistic and positive, as well as ambitious," Raimund says. He stops then smiles. "We're musicians. We have the right to be ambitious."

E-mail the author at volcanogirl28@hotmail.com

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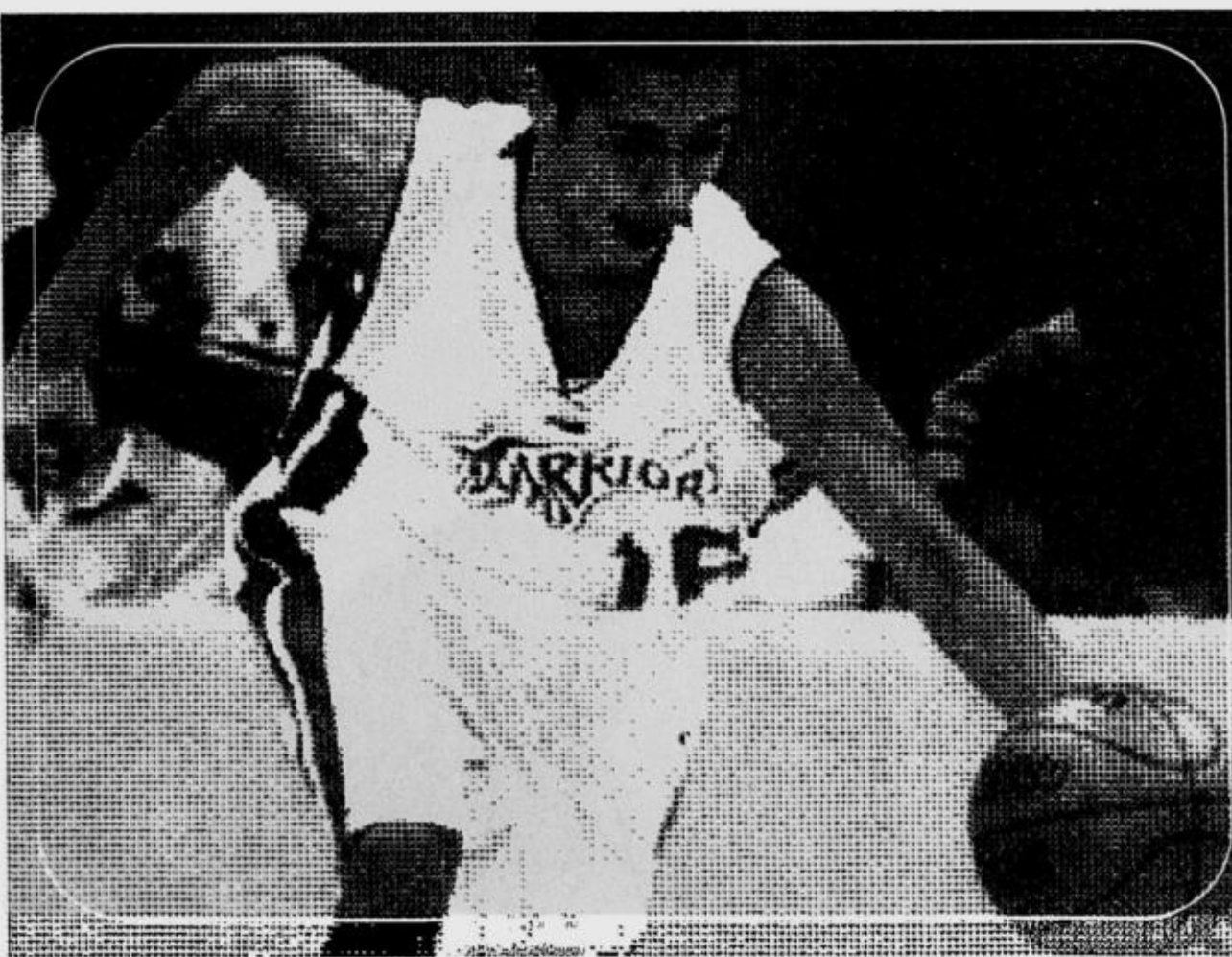


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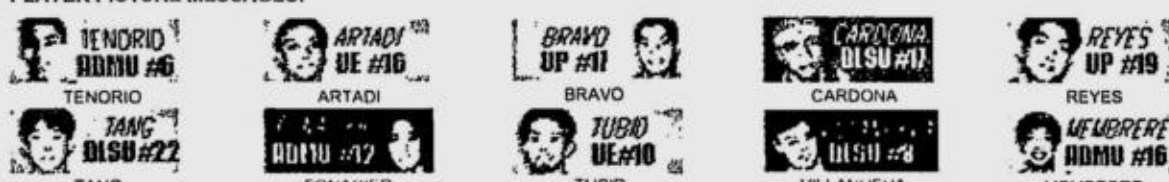
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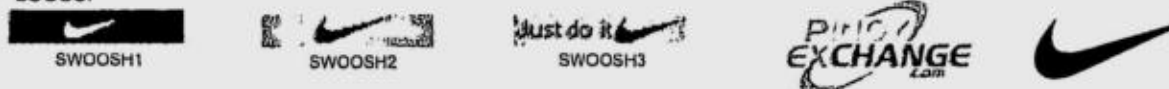
To download Nike logos, type NIKE LOGO <logo name> then send to 288 for Smart Zed.
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PLAYER PICTURE MESSAGES:



LOGOS:



What makes you proud as Pinoy?

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bUI Correspondent

AFTER THE INFAMOUS Andrew Cunanan, the love bug and the derogatory definition of "Filipino" in the dictionary, do we have reasons to be proud as Filipinos? The pessimistic instantly answer no, but for the positive-thinking Pinoy, it's a yes with lots of exclamation points. From exotic foods to family values, traditions to world-class talents, we have it all.

Here's a list of WHAT/p.D3

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Quick Breads and Mini Cakes 4 August 12, Monday, 1:30-5:00 pm Lemon Walnut Loaf, Chunky Apple Walnut Mini Cake, Another Carrot Cake, Mini Poppy Seed Cake with Chocolate Glaze, Pineapple Upside-Down Mini Cake Tuition Fee P850

Back to Baking Basics 3 August 14, Wednesday, 1:30-5:00 pm Butter Loaf, Brazo de Mercedes with Yema Macapuno Filling, Tolelan, Single Serve Tiramisu, Banana Quickbread Tuition Fee P850

Desserts Galore 1 August 16, Friday, 1:30-5:00 pm Rum Chocolate Fruit Cake, Rum Cake, Cappuccino Brownies, Caramel Brownies, Walnut Caramel Tartlets Tuition Fee P850

No Bake Delights 2 August 18, Sunday, 1:30-5:00 pm Cathedral Windows 2, Peaches and Cream Cheesecake, Black Forest Cheesecake, Italian Refrigerator Cake, Ube Pandan Cheesecake Tuition Fee P850

Back to Baking Basics 5 August 21, Wednesday, 1:30-5:00 pm Apple Upsidedown Cake, Vanilla Pound Cake, Poppy Seed Pound Cake, Icebox Cookies with Cornflakes, Almond Wafers Tuition Fee P850

In Time For The Holidays 1 August 23, Friday, 1:30-5:00 pm Edible Christmas Wreaths using Cinnamon Bread and Cookies, Drunken Chocolate Fruit Cake, Banana Blueberry Cupcakes, Chocolate Bundt Cake with Mocha Fudge Glaze Tuition Fee P850

In Time For The Holidays 2 August 31, Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm Drunken Mini Bundt Cakes, Carrot Cake with Figs, Holiday Applesauce Quick Bread, No-Bake Pineapple Macadamia Cheesecake, Buttery Muffins with Assorted Fruit Topping, Basic Chocolate Candy Making Tuition Fee P850

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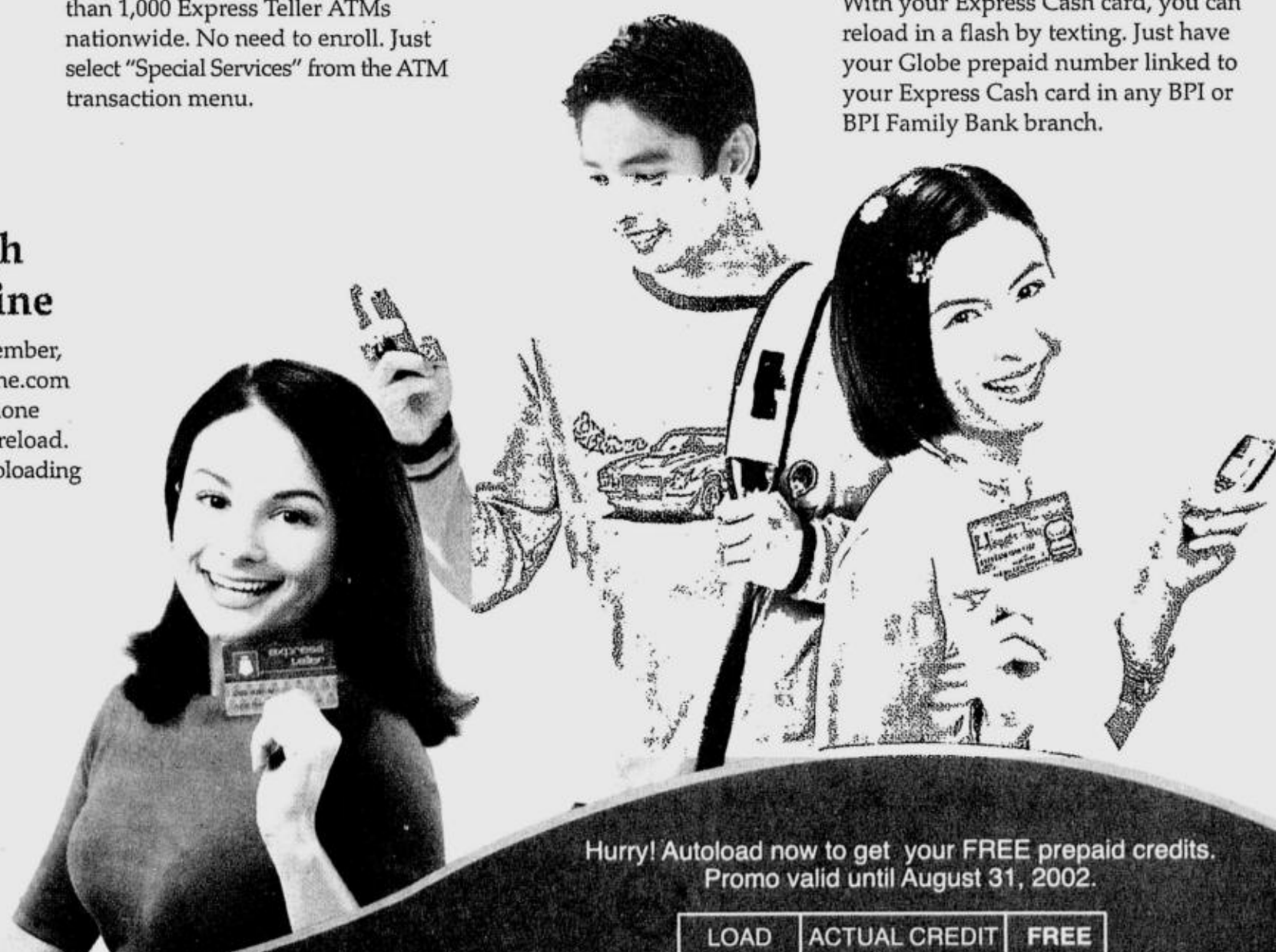
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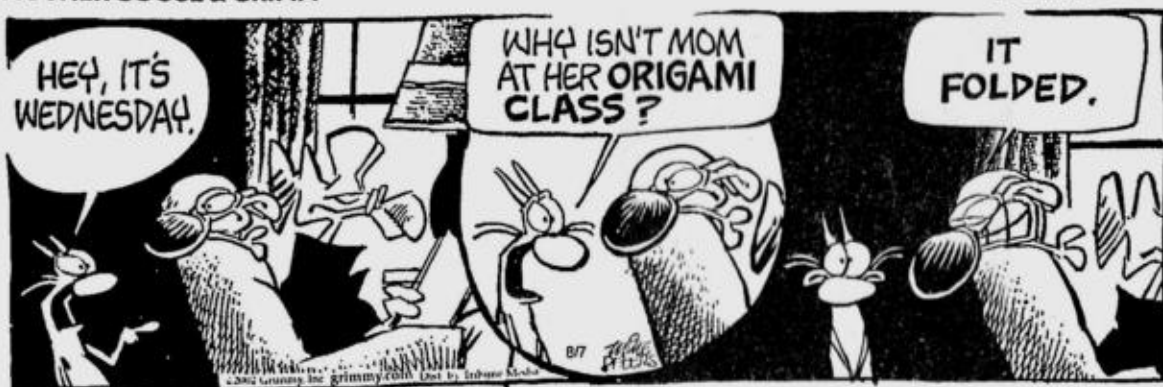
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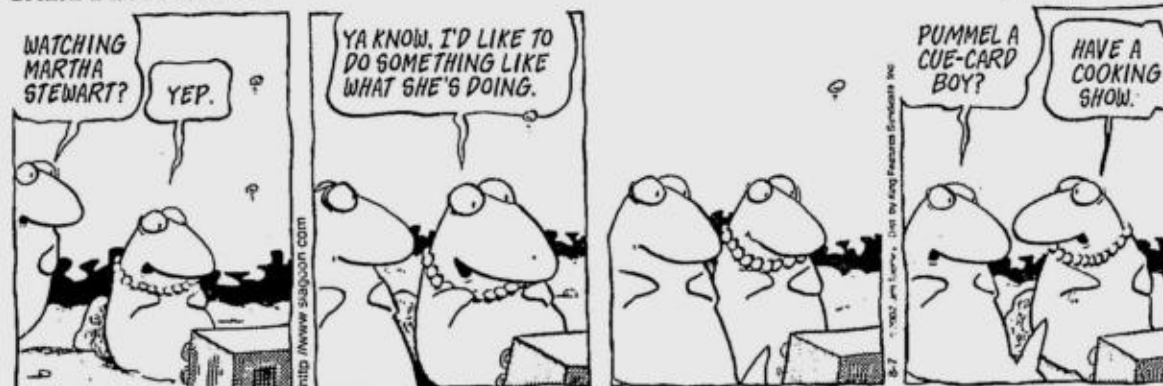


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BY EDGAR DIONELA

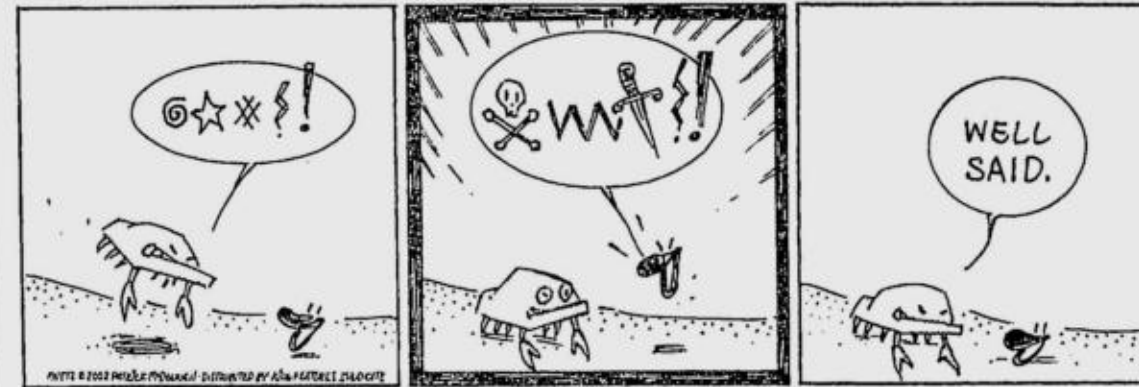


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lana Cantrell, B.J. Thomas, Garrison Keillor, David Duchovny
Happy Birthday: A leadership position will be waiting for you if you're willing to express your ideas to those in high places. Take the initiative and follow your dreams. Look at obstacles as a challenge that you can overcome. The end result will be more self-confidence and the success you're looking for. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 35, 41, 46

- ARIES (March 21-April 19):** If you make a hasty decision regarding your home or personal life, you are likely to have regrets. You are not likely to get the cooperation you need to make the changes at home.
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You will take a greater interest in earning more money today. This is a good time to start your own business or do a little research regarding the opportunities and options you have. Don't lend or borrow money.
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You will be compassionate today, but that doesn't mean you should let someone take advantage of you. Your insight into future trends will enable you to make the right choices regarding your financial affairs.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Travel to visit someone you enjoy spending time with. You have lots to talk about and you'll gain a much better perspective on your life if you discuss your concerns with someone you trust.
- CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Your intuition will lead you in a new direction. You will be nervous and restless if you don't find something to do that sparks your intellectual curiosity. You are not willing to listen to good advice.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You should be concerned today with helping those in need. Be generous in a practical way. You could make a difference to someone who doesn't have a role model.

DAILY CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- Opera highlight
- Israeli dances
- Poor-box contribution
- In person
- Castle defense
- From that time on
- Undersized
- Anxiety
- Con man's aide
- Uneven
- In agreement
- Yen
- Expansive speaker
- Concur soundlessly
- Replacements for LPs
- Mild discomfort
- Manipulate
- Turn left!
- Mimic
- Religious woman
- Thoughtful
- Barnyard layer
- Illuminated
- Elgar's "Variations"
- Check attachment?
- In direct confrontation
- Barbecue spit
- Tosses out
- Saw socially
- Ascend
- Universal
- Partly open
- In contact
- "Airplane" star
- Robert
- Graduation group
- Altar area

DOWN

- Ship's rear
- Stadium shout
- Hot jewelry?
- Carbonate
- "Starburst" composer
- Switch positions
- Working cat
- Sleeve card
- Sun, homily
- Two-handed jar
- Comic Anderson
- Vinile
- Technique
- Camper's shelter
- Like hot stuff
- Dawn
- Commonplace writing
- Poet Nash
- Honda competitor
- Day's march
- City on Lake Ontario
- Coarse cotton trousers
- Boat lift
- Relative by marriage
- Connecting rooms
- Go in
- Irish dogs
- Sitheno's sister
- Site of Mohammed's tomb
- Hebrew text
- ESP board?
- Literary composition
- Proofreader's notations
- Lotto variant
- Home of Iowa State
- SASE, for example
- Mountain pass
- Flatfoot
- Nincompoop
- Spike or Pinky

By Bruce Venzke Madison, WI 8/7/02

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L	I	K	E	D	C	L	I	P	L	U	D	A
A	D	A	G	E	B	O	N	O	E	T	O	N
S	E	R	A	C	E	A	R	L	N	E	O	N
S	O	L	D	I	E	R	F	I	E	L	D	P
N	A	T	H	A	N	S	L	I	D	P	M	S
A	W	A	I	T	O	P	E	C	A	R	E	A
M	A	R	K	E	T	P	E	S	S	I	M	I
E	R	T	E	W	E	N	S	M	I	A	T	A
D	E	S	L	I	N	T	A	P	E	M	A	N
G	R	I	Z	Z	L	Y	O	R	K	O	D	I
R	E	N	T	I	O	W	A	P	E	S	C	I
A	N	N	E	N	Y	E	T	E	M	I	R	S
B	O	S	C	G	O	N	E	R	O	S	E	S

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BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



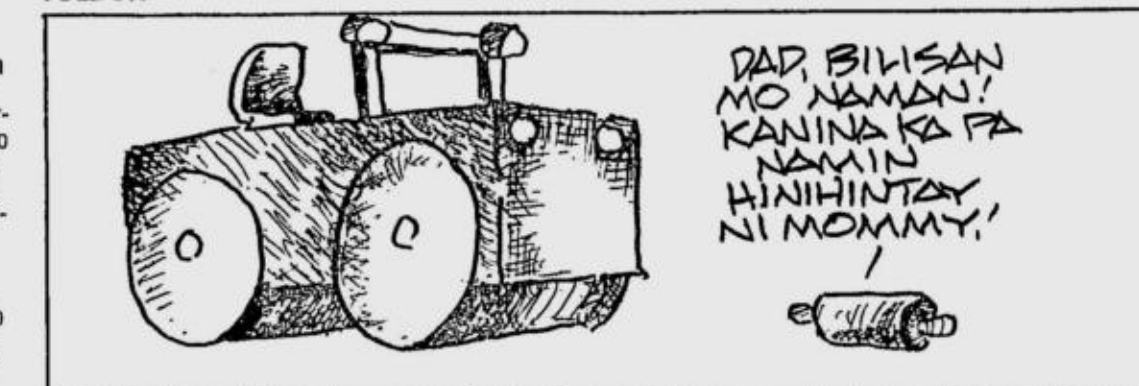
GENG'S GAMES

BY AMIEL RUFO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Reasons to be proud 2B Pinoy—Part 1

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

● **NATIONAL Bookstore.** The only place where you can find anything and everything you can possibly need and want, with a rocking greeting card section to boot. Owned by Pinoys, of course.

● **Friendliness and warmth of the Filipino.** Where else can foreigners find the comfort and luxury to be treated like first-class citizens?

● **Goldilocks' polvoron and mamon** and Red Ribbon's chocolate mousse and empanadas.

● **Kenko humor.** It's not exactly the classy type of humor, but it does the trick especially on days of rest, relaxation and wild abandonment.

● **The prettiest tropical flowers in the world.**

● **Manila.** We're neither the cleanest nor the greenest, but nowhere in the world will you find tiangges in malls like Ayala, Rockwell Center and Virra Mall.

● **Free cardiovascular workout.** There's no need to pay hefty sums of money to stay healthy and to get your muscles toned. Just walk around or stand till eternity as you try to get a ride home during the rainy season.

● **Excellence in the arts (especially in singing and dancing).** Many people find Asian singers and dancers to be, well, how shall we put it? *Baduy*. But definitely not Filipinos—we have the likes of Lani Misalucha, Gary Valenciano, the Maneoivres and Lisa Macuja-Elizalde.

● **Donita Rose.** She's a paragon of beauty, brains and personality.

● **Varied ethno-linguistic cultures.**

● **Langas.** As reported on "Front-page," the inventor of this alternative environment-friendly energy source is a Filipino. The energy will soon be exported to other countries like the United States and South Korea.

● **Radiant skin color.** It's time to

dump those skin whiteners. Why bother to lighten your skin color? Westerners actually spend a lot of money to look tanned.

● **"Grilleries."** Copycats of chains like the classic Dencio's, Gerry's Grill, Congo Grill and the Krocodile Grillery are mushrooming all over the metro as customers continue to clamor for that uniquely charbroiled Pinoy flavor.

● **Girl power marches on with Dorothy Joy Delasin, Lydia de Vega, Elma Muros, Bea Lucero, Akiko Thompson and many more.**

● **Piña and jusi.** You can't consider using any other type of textile for your daddy's *barong tagalog*.

● **Text capital of the world.** Pinoys sporting multicased cell phones are interconnected at the push of a single button (unless you run out of load).

● **Palawan, ecotourism capital of the Philippines,** a testament to Mother Nature's wonder and beauty.

● **Cebu with its pristine beaches,** sweet mangoes, romantic guitars, plus *gwapisos* and *gwapisas*.

● **The MRT, the new Edsa flyovers,** the Skyway and Naia Terminal 2.

● **Family values.** Homes for the aged? We wouldn't hear of such nonsense here. We're more than willing, in fact privileged, to have the duty of taking care of our *nanays* and *tatays*.

● **Pinays.** No one can love a man the way a Pinay does. No one can make a man love as much as a Pinay can.

● **We smell good.** Filipinos appear to take more showers than any other race in the world!

● **dzMM.** For once in your life, try to give FM radio a rest. If you want to stay informed and on top of things, this radio station never fails to deliver.

● **Jollibee food chain.** Now an international brand, we can't "bee" happier for this true-blue Pinoy company's success!

● **Religion and faith.** Baclaran has

never been without people on Wednesdays.

● **Unique and expansive literature** ranging from the surreal to the escapist and realistic.

● **No room for hopelessness and disillusionment.** Filipinos may rant and spout pessimistic rhetoric, but episodes like these are fleeting.

● **The University of the Philippines School of Economics!** With Dean Raul Fabella holding the reins, it's simply the best in Southeast Asia.

● **Madaling mabuhay.** The cupboard is never without the famed Nissin Yakisoba and Lucky Me La Paz Batchoy.

● **Kings in billiards like Efrén "Bata" Reyes, Django Bustamante,** and thousands of other talented wannabes and *tambays*.

● **Believe it or not, "opo" and "po"** are still being used by, taught to and expected of youngsters.

● **Rexona boys.** Ooh-la-la! Where did these guys come from? All of a sudden we find ourselves gawking at the television screens for guys who spend half of their natural lives inside the gym.

● **The great Pinoy boxing legacy.**

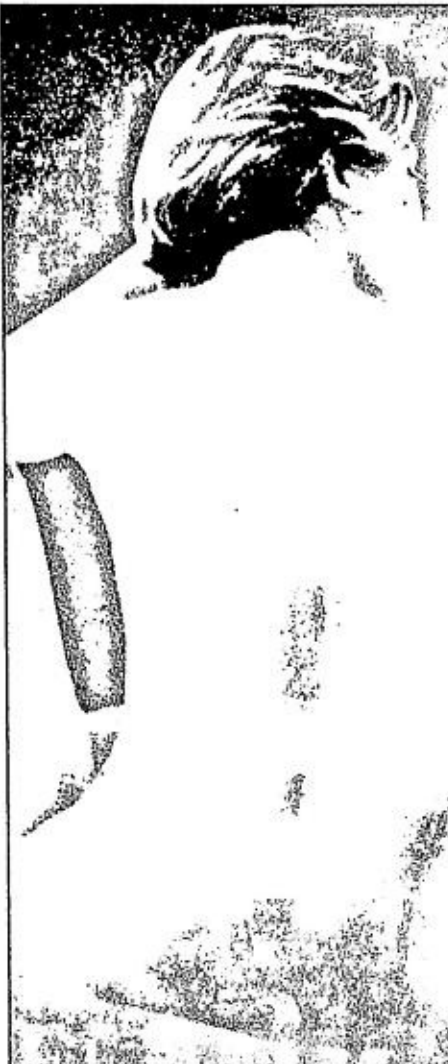
● **Our OFWs' sense of sacrifice and service.** They're not just modern-day heroes. These people are loving mothers, fathers, sons and daughters who pawned their precious lives for the country's future.

● **Top-rate Original Pinoy Music,** 100-percent pure listening pleasure.

● **Creativity and ingenuity.** Check out the spectacularly arresting ads and commercials in the media.

● **Texas Instruments in Baguio,** which has been operating for over 20 years, is the largest producer of DSP chips in the world. The plant produces the chip that powers 100 percent of all Nokia cell phones in the world and 80 percent of Ericsson cell phones.

● **(Drumroll, please.) PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER.**



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What makes you proud as Pinoys?

From page D1

great Pinoy food, qualities, traditions, personalities and more, to remind us that despite what others say, we should all be proud of our nationality.

Proud ako dahil kilala tayong mga Pinoy sa mga good values natin. At 'di 'yan basta-basta! Dapat talaga natin ipagmalaki iyon at i-maintain.—**Pelita Tayo, nurse, wants to work abroad**

Gloria Diaz, Margie Moran, Ruffa G. and other beauty queens na nag-prove na tayo'y magaganda!—**Irvin Oxala, blooming 18, maganda din**

I'm mighty proud of how we don't just neglect our elders.—**Hazelle Anne Dayoc, not yet old**

The Filipino tongue is something to be proud of because it can easily learn different languages.—**Richard Vincent Leyva, 18, has a long tongue**

The immense talent of Pinoys makes me proud to be one. The success of Lea Salonga and Billy Crawford makes me want to go around the world and tell everybody that just like Salonga and Crawford, I'm also Pinoy.—**Leoniso Rivera, doubts if Crawford is totally Pinoy**

Ako I'm proud of our durian and bagoong. Dapat nga mas madami pa ang maging proud. They may not smell so nice pero pambihira naman sa sarap. Kakagutom!—**Eileen Nidua, has a younger sister who is pregnant and craving for hilaw na mangga't bagoong**

I'm proud of my skin color. It's the most beautiful shade and I just like to flaunt my skin to prove how I love my being *kayumanggi*.—**Marcia Marcelino, never used whitening lotion, and never will**

I'm proud of how hospitable we are. We're known for our warm smiles.—**Catherine Taniajera, doesn't eat hamburgers**

Boracay. It's a real gem that foreigners keep coming back to this place.—**Marjorie Ocay, planning to go back to the beach with her Australian boyfriend**

I'm so proud of our being fluent in English. Most of us may not have the twang, but we sure know correct grammar.—**Shery-**

lene Jorda, doesn't have the twang but is always grammatically correct

The use of *po* and *opo* is something to be proud of because it is a sign of respect.—**Carl Ruiz, 19**

World-class talents like Wilce Portacio, Efrén Bata and Ruffa Gutierrez.—**Francia Encinas, pang world-class ang beauty**

Filipinos are hospitable, patient, practical. They laugh at everything even when they're in the middle of a critical situation.—**Wendel P. Dispulo, medical technology student**

Pinoys are independent when it comes to fulfilling their dreams and obligations.—**Prof. LA Sablan**

Papaya, mango, copra, rice, sugar and all the other Philippine products that are in demand abroad.—**Angeli Kerr Estanillo, one of the fast learners in her Economics class**

Ang mga Pinoy kasi kahit saang bansa pumunta, nag-e-excel in their chosen fields. Pang world-class ang mga Pinoy!—**Michelle E. Abadingo, 19, biology major, UP Diliman**

Filipino musicians who sing about Pinoy pride. Joey Ayala and Grace Nono are talented artists but what makes them more special is how they integrate into music their pride in being Filipinos.—**Hiyas Gapit, covered with goosebumps every time she hears Francis M.'s "Mga Kababayan Ko"**

Filipinos are very intelligent. They [easily learn other] languages. They are also hospitable and friendly.—**Arnie Ocampo, 16, knows a little Niponggo**

Kasi iba tayo. Madaming produkto ang mga Pilipino, at magagaling pa sa arts.—**Acer, 19**

Filipinos are united. They are very religious and they respect their elders. Most of all, they put God first in everything they do.—**Jasmin Lourdes Tan, 17, medical technology student**

We're talented, *mabait*, loyal and caring.—**Bryan Q. Montañez, 19, talented, mabait, loyal and caring**

I'm not Pinoy.—**Jyoti Shrestha, 20, Nepalese**

E-mail the author at mark_katoto@yahoo.com

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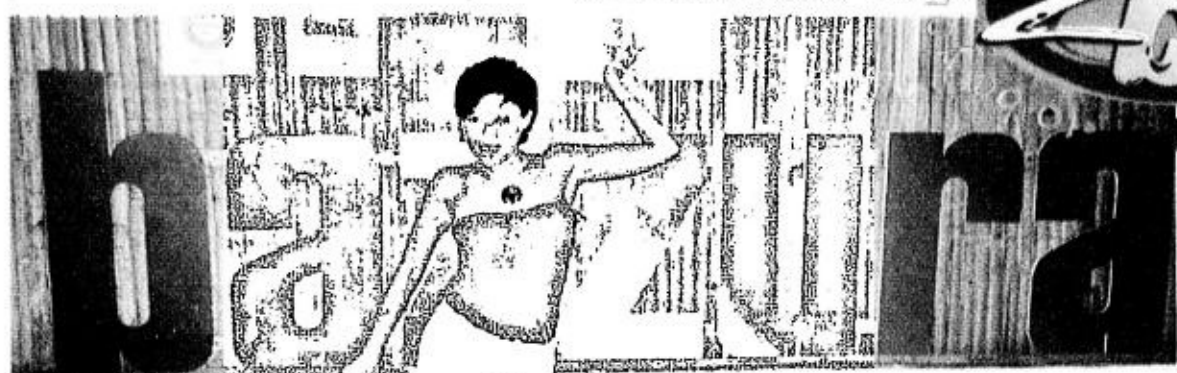
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PITCHER PALS. Boy 2, Melvin and Scott guzzle it out.



PARTY MYX. Yaparazzi, Michi Valeriano and Mylene Dizon



SIZZLING HOT.

Mylene Dizon pulsates with the party vibe.

Painting the beach red

"RED or Dead," screamed the flyers posted all over the party isles of Boracay for club Bazzura's fab, fab fourth anniversary shindig. Off-season all of a sudden became peak-popping time (in terms of tourist arrivals, mind you). And why not? This was, after all, Boracay's prime party institution.

After going through the fully booked Asian Spirit flights to Caticlan that weekend, I arrived at the sandy shores of the urbanites' favorite getaway. The sky was clear and welcoming. The winds blew gently, bussing my cheeks as I walked toward my destination. The powdery white sand hugged my feet like feathered pillows massaging my toes. Waling-Waling was to be my nest for my mini-break away from the pressures of city life.

I was married to my bed for most of the day, waking up to the stark orange and yellow of the Boracay sunset (which Waling Waling had a perfect view of). I took a quick stroll around the island. A different show was to take place. Looking up, I saw the stars shining very brightly. "In contrast to Manila, where you can't even see the moon," our driver said. Maybe it was a sign



Tim Yap

of things to come. While savoring my pizza margherita at Hey Jude's (the best spot for people-watching and cocktail-guzzling), partyphiles from all walks of life were in various shades of red. "It's gonna be one hot night," I told myself.

In my yearly pilgrimage to the club to pay respects to owner **Patrick Higgs** (he bought the club four years ago with partner **Paul Sowerby** and made it the establishment that it is now), I've found that no club espouses the Pinoy party culture's idiosyncrasies and diversity more than Bazzura. In there, locals and tourists from all classes, races and genders meet and match.

Bazzura's beat

Witness the drunken foreigner flirting with the seduc-

tive "trannie," or the pretty Euro chick grinding with the muscle-packed island boy. Or the passersby waiting in the wings for that wink from a beautiful stranger. Or simply, the hardcore partyphile ting a high out of the music blaring from the sounds of Bazzura's beat.

That night, celebrities hobnobbed with island folk. Patrick played Santa Claus, giving away gifts to the revelers that filled Bazzura's open-air party halls. Party-hardy support came from Manila's ABG's crew, show-biz stars and Bazzura loyalists. DJs **James McCranie** and **Eric Capili** turned the tables while Red Horse provided the night's poison. Support also came from sponsors, which included Sea Air, Le Soleil, Club 10, True Home and Sea Wind.

Since it was the *habagat* season, strong winds ruled the whole night, providing cinematic effect as one walked through the long seaside stretch. In its own way, despite the rocky roads and occasional power failure, Boracay still provides the weary city-phile the perfect anti-stress therapy. It de-stresses by nudging to revel and run wild. "Indulge," it whispers softly in your ear.

"Boracay, whether bleak, balmy or blistering, is always bodacious." So said the island's adopted son, **Jun Poblador**. "And don't forget the other B!" Bazzura, that is.

This week's punches

This weekend may prove to be an exciting one, with two telecom giants doing a showdown in the dance circuit.

Friday has **Globe's** GenTxx and NBK teaming up to bring you the much-awaited Renaissance World Tour with the famed **Anthony Pappa**, at 10 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club. GenTxx members enter for free, while Globe subscribers get 50-percent off gate price.

Saturday, it's Smart, Bench, MTV and Big Fish's united effort to bring in the Godskitchen Global Dance Party at the NBC Tent as part of the third installment of the World Superclub Series.

DJ **Darren Pearce** and **COCOMANGAS' Ava** and **John Monroe**



COCOMANGAS' Ava and **John Monroe**



STILL STANDING. Julian Rouloux and Marnie Arcilla

RED hot angel Jude Lee of Hey Jude!

ON FIRE. Angelo Villanueva burning on the ledge

comes to Manila for the second time around with his trance melodic tunes to rock the scene.

Let's see who packs the punches. Or if the rave circuit is not your thing, head over to Pravda this Friday for **Edge Pamute's** "Plush" scene, or to Dish for the second installment of its "Stars" nostalgia, Saturdays the whole month of August. So, let the joy rise...

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She's feeling guilty of having an online relationship with a married man

DEAR Sep and Caloy,
I met a guy through ICQ late last year. He was funny, smart and cool. He's 37; I'm 22. He's married; I'm not. In one chat session, we flirted online and had "cybersex." It was nice and he said he had a great time, too. We did it a couple of times after that.

Since then, he has been telling me that he wants to meet me. I told him that I don't have the courage to meet him because I've never met anyone online, more so someone whom I've had cybersex with.

He told me that he's not forcing me to meet him. He is a really nice guy, but I don't know if it's right to meet him. In the first place, he is married and has kids. I want to stop this kind of relationship before it gets worse.

My problem is I don't know how to tell him that I don't want to meet him without hurting his feelings.

Once, I asked him if he feels guilty having this kind of relationship online. He said he doesn't. But I feel guilty. Please give me advice regarding this matter.

CHIVONNE

Cybersex, or simply typing dirty words on the Net, is okay unless you forget to protect yourself. Luckily, viruses aren't as prevalent or as lethal to the average Dick or Fanny in that realm than in the world of the real.

But the protection that I'm talking about is protection of your own identity. The biggest mistake you made wasn't that you went out looking for trouble and found it. Lots of people hack into banks, security offices and the like just for fun, but they live to tell the tale. What you did wrong was use a legit account that had vital information on yourself.

If you're really into fixing this problem without landing you in the tabloids, why don't you find out his wife's e-mail address—if she or it really exists—and blackmail him. Do this as a last resort. There are a lot of psychos online looking for trouble.

To the "wife" of the "married," 37-year-old "male" (am I being too skeptical?), this one's for you:

How to tell if your spouse is having cybersex:

- Claims going online cures headaches.
- Computer screen all fogged up.
- Buys "anatomically correct" mouse.
- Can't stop describing what's happening during sex.
- Says "enter" after every statement.
- Stopped reading trashy romance novels because "I hate flip-



Carlos Garchitorea & September Mabino

ping pages."

● Calls your children Dot and Colon.

● All the whores he used to visit are dropping by your house looking for "El Hard Drive."

● Penthouse subscription is expired.

● Won't ever let you take his dictation.

For more on sexual addiction (the cure of, not the satisfaction of) log on to www.cybersexualaddiction.com, or www.SexualRecovery.com. For guilt-laying Bible passages, or just to exorcise the demon from the fridge, tell El Hard Drive himself to visit www.ChristianityToday.com.

CALOY

If you don't want to meet him, then don't. The way this whole situation is making you feel is just wrong on many levels: one, you're uncomfortable with the idea of meeting someone you've had cybersex with. In my opinion, that should be the deciding factor against your meeting this guy. Two, you feel guilty because the guy is married. I myself don't view little "affairs" on the Net as cheating, but once it crosses over into the physical tangible world, it could get harmful to any of the parties that are involved.

Third, he doesn't feel guilty about wanting to meet you and he even forces you into a little guilt trip whenever you try to tell him why you cannot and would not meet him. What an insensitive jerk.

Now, I compare him to you, and I think you've exercised more patience with this guy than what is necessary. Don't be scared about hurting his feelings by saying no. I don't think he ever felt guilty about wheedling you constantly into meeting him. You said you don't want to hurt his family; stay away from him then. I could be sounding quite vicious about this guy but that's only because you yourself have not met him in person, yet. My opinion might improve a little if you swore that he is a nice guy and that the two of you have actually met. But until then... if he was already this (subtly) forceful online, I could only imagine what he would be like in the flesh.

Good luck. And don't be afraid to tell him no.

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